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THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2012

Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK.

This was the scene at St Hilary, when the village held its street party to celebrate the Jubilee.

Partytime and a Beacon of light for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Celebrations fit for a Queen...

THERE was so much happening in the Cowbridge area over the Diamond Jubilee weekend that it was hard to keep track.

In fact, this week's GEM has Jubilee events on pages 3, 18, 19 and 20, as people in the town celebrated Her Majesty's 60-year reign.

Most spectacular was the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon on St Hilary Downs on Monday night, and this was blessed with clear skies and good weather.

The town's luck ran out on Tuesday, when rain arrived at just the wrong time for a street party centred on Church Street and Old Hall Gardens.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19).

JUBILEE REVIVES GOLDEN MEMORIES

ABOVE:
Olive Thomas (left) with her sister, Mary.
(SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE FULL STORY).

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Friend who will be sadly missed

I WAS sorry to hear of the sudden death of Coun Margaret Alexander of Barry, and extend to her partner and relatives, my sympathy in their loss.

Coun Alexander, a resident of Trinity Street, was a great support and encouragement to me as treasurer and previously secretary, of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, when our Minister and members were faced with a major challenge to upgrade our ageing buildings on a very difficult corner site.

We were pleased that she lived to see the completion of our new halls and witnessed a regeneration of this section of Trinity Street.

As recently as two weeks ago, she was continuing her efforts to ensure various community groups took advantage of the new modern facilities.

These were provided thanks to the generosity of our church members, and grants from the Presbyterian Church, Welsh Government, Vale Council and numerous charitable trusts.

Our friend will be greatly missed in the community of Barry and the Vale, and will be remembered for her unfailing concern to help her fellow citizens whenever possible.

W Haydn Burgess,
Barry.

Scrap this noise level!

IS anyone else getting tired of those scrap dealer trucks with the loud-speakers?

Every second day, and now even Sunday mornings, I can't hear myself think when they pass. Talk about noise pollution!

Alex Campbell
Barry

Llantwit Major in ancient times...

I WONDER if a local historian could answer this query?

I am most interested in the early history of Llantwit Major.

I gather that the parish is named after St Illtutus or Illtyd, which could only have happened after the arrival of Christianity.

Does anyone know what the place (or the area) was called before that?

I am a retired teacher and keen amateur historian, now living near Cape Town.

Mr Jay Heale
jayheale@telkomsa.net

Origin of the torch relay?

FAR be it for me to rain on anyone's parade – I love to party as much, if not more so, than anyone else – but the blanket coverage of the Olympic torch progression fair takes the biscuit.

This ceremony was adopted by the Olympic movement at the suggestion of the Nazi government in Germany, which loved to stage torchlight processions to emphasise Aryan strength.

So, along it came for the 1936 Berlin Olympics and it has been adopted ever since.

It does, however, serve one useful purpose at the moment, in establishment circles – it diverts attention from the economic collapse of the Euro, and perhaps the entire EU edifices.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

'TOWN'S AMAZING GENEROSITY'

£2,469 is raised for RNLI, door-to-door in Barry

BARRY fundraising branch of the RNLI would like to thank the people of Barry for their donations during the recent annual house-to-house collection.

I am always amazed at the generosity shown at this fundraising event for the RNLI. A total of £2,469.62 was raised.

I would also like to thank the fundraising team who gave considerable time to volunteering for this event.

The RNLI is an independent charity that saves lives at sea, providing 24-hour search and rescue from the 234 lifeboat stations around the coasts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and a seasonal lifeguard service on many of the beaches in Wales and England.

Funding relies on donations and legacies, and costs in excess of £140 million annually to function.

During 2011, lifeboats were launched 8,905 times, rescuing an average of 22 people every day and 17,671 people were aided by lifeguards.

The RNLI also works to promote sea and beach safety. None of this would be possible without donations.

The Barry Lifeboat Station has an all-weather lifeboat and this year, RNLI Lifeguards are now present on local beaches.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fundraising. Do you have some time to spare to maybe join our branch, or perhaps do a fundraiser on our behalf? Please telephone 01446 732195.

Chris Tutton, chairman,
Barry Fundraising branch, RNLI

A FEAT OF DEDUCTION!

WHAT a splendid bunch the people of Barry are: Last Friday, a wallet containing several bank cards fell out of my pocket while I was driving along Pontypridd Road on a motor bike.

This splendid chap, who spotted it in a feat of deduction Hercule Poirot would be proud of, used his 'little grey cells' to work out where I lived (there was nothing in the wallet with my address on) and returned the wallet the following morning.

Thank you, sir!

David Alexander,
Barry

Treated on the spot!

I HAVE just returned home from hospital after an operation, and my sister came to take me out for a coffee, as I am unable to walk at the moment.

I asked her to take me to Roz Cousins, the local chiropodist, so I could make an appointment.

When we got there, the sign said closed, so we were about to walk away, when Roz opened the door to ask if she could help.

She was a little shocked when she saw me in my wheelchair and asked what happened.

After explaining that I had been in hospital, she asked what she could do to help. I told her a toe on the only leg I could stand on was hurting; she went into her surgery, came back with a box of equipment and treated my toe there and then, while I sat in my wheelchair outside her surgery in Llantwit..

What a wonderful lady. I don't know any other place where I would be treated so well. Thank you, Roz, you are a gem!

(Name and address supplied)

Let us know your views and news; email us at:
gemeditorial @tindlenews .co.uk

'No flags for the Jubilee' in Barry'

I JUST want to voice my absolute disgust at both the Vale Council and Barry Council, for not flying any flags on any public buildings throughout Barry, in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee.

Whether you're a monarchist or not, this is a milestone worth celebrating.

George Carstairs, Barry

FOE AND THE LDP

DUE to the Bank Holiday, the next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, June 12, at 7.30-pm, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Following the local elections, Barry and Vale FoE will focus on the changes needed to the LDP, which will decide the fate of many areas of the Vale for years to come, and on the need to drop the so-called Green Project – 'Prosiect Gwyrdd', which is only concerned to see incinerators built.

We will be looking to the new administration of the Vale Council to live up to their election promises,

Keith Stockdale
Barry&Vale FoE Co-ordinator

Change of career?

I WRITE in response to the recent GEM letter from the 'mere mortal', who wrote complaining bitterly about teachers' numerous holidays, inset and strike days.

Might I point out, as the wife of a teacher, that our family have no option but to take all our holidays during term breaks, when the prices are inflated considerably.

My husband has never been to our children's sports days or assemblies, as he is unable to take even an hour or two off during school time (though he would happily make this time up with pupils after school).

Multiple holidays come with the hard task of teaching – but the job does have clear disadvantages. If this appeals to 'mere mortal', could I suggest a change in career?

(Name and address supplied)

Memories of the old church at Rhoose...

GEM readers may have recently read that if the old church at Rhoose was still standing today, it would have been 100 years old.

It stood on the west boundary of the Parish of Porthkerry, which extended to All Saints at Barry.

Mr Howard Thomas has given us details of its construction, its material, who built it, and what it cost.

It was often referred to as the 'tin church'.

Over the years, services were only held in the evenings, the only exception being the last Sunday in the month at 10am, for communion.

For the services, the curate, Edward Fowler, was driven to Rhoose from Barry, in a horse-drawn cab supplied by a Mr Hooper of Barry and the cab waited for the service to end and then drove him to Porthkerry for the 11 o'clock service.

The cab then left and Mr Fowler, who lived in the Garden Suburb area of Barry, had to make his own way home through Porthkerry Park.

Sunday school at 2 o'clock was well attended with Miss Elsie Saviours in charge and she was also the organist at Rhoose, and my three sisters and I were regular attendees.

The seating capacity was about 80, the chairs with their 'kneelers' attached, had places for prayer and hymn books.

A large Tortoise stove at the centre on the north side, supplied warmth in the winter with coal as the fuel.

The vestry was at the front on the right (south) side, the small Estey organ next, then the altar and communion rail, the pulpit with its three steps, then a general purpose room on the north side.

The original bell still exists and now hangs in the present church and it is rung before service begins.

Situated a little distance from the eastern end of the church, was the church hall which was a blessing and was a place for the Girl Guides to meet, events organised by the Church Guild, concerts, whist drives etc.

Elections for parliamentary candidates were decided there and it was well used until Rhoose School became available.

I have fond memories or the years that I attended and of the people that I came to know and respect. Hopefully they will remain with me as long as I live.

ALFRED MILLS,
Barry ***(101 this month).***

IN BRIEF

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, June 12, 11am–1pm. Telephone Gaynor Davies for more details on 01446 733315.

Keep fit

AGE CONCERN Barry hold an Extend Class at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on a Wednesday morning from 9.30am-10.30am.

The classes are designed for the more mature to help maintain a good level of personal fitness. Cost £2. Contact 01446 732385.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	09.17	9.8	21.38	9.9
08 Fri	09.58	9.5	22.22	9.6
09 Sat	10.49	9.1	23.11	9.1
10 Sun	11.33	8.6	23.53	8.6
11 Mon			12.26	8.1
12 Tues	00.51	8.2	13.13	7.9
13 Wed	01.52	7.9	14.27	7.8
14 Thur	02.59	7.8	15.33	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Jubilee link to Helmand

EAST VIEW, in Llandow, hosted its very own street party, which was broadcast live to Afghanistan!

(HRH!) Helen Rosemary Higgins' son, Matty, is serving with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in Helmand Province, and had a phone conversation with the entire street over the PA system!

Helen, who organised the party with Sam Smith, said: "The whole street came out in force, and along with more friends and family, threw the Queen a right royal bash!"

Laura Williams

1st Cowbridge Scouts plant Jubilee tree!

ABOVE: The Scouts plant their tree for the Jubilee.

MEMBERS of the 1st Cowbridge Scouts – Tiger Troop planted a pear tree in the grounds of the Scout Headquarters recently to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Leader Nick Exley said: "This was the Jubilee celebrations and the Scouts decided that they would like to do something that would last for years."

The Scouts have also recently been involved in the Scout Post, go kart racing, bowling, air rifle shooting and cooking, as well as map and compass training around Cowbridge.

1st Cowbridge Scouts meet every Tuesday or Thursday. New scouts welcome. Contact Nick Exley (01446 773264).

The Brownies hold a Jubilee party!

LEFT: The Ystradowen Brownies had a Royal old time during their Jubilee party.

THE 3rd Cowbridge (Ystradowen) Brownies had a wonderful evening celebrating the Diamond Jubilee last week with their very own 'street party' in Ystradowen village hall.

The evening kicked off with a good old-fashioned tea party, (*not forgetting jelly and blancmange!*) then the Brownies, all dressed in red, white and blue, entertained themselves with imaginative self-styled stalls and competitions.

The hall was bedecked in the Brownies' own hand-made bunting and heads were adorned with beautiful crowns and tiaras, again hand-crafted by the girls.

A fantastic time was had by all!

JB

Coffee morning for church

ST MARY'S church in Bonvilston, will be holding a coffee morning at the Great House, Bonvilston, on Saturday, June 16.

Thanks to the generosity of the owners, this will be the first church coffee morning held in Great House since the late Lady Pode lived there.

Entrance is £3, which will include refreshments and the event will run from 11am to 2pm.

There will be a number of stalls including the woodturners, handbags, home produce, books, bric-a-brac, cakes and cards.

Great House is on the A48 opposite St Mary's Church and parking will be available at the Reading Room a short distance away. Entrance to Great House will be through the main gates.

This fundraising will go towards the cost of re-wiring the church.

Tickets can be bought from Rita Price 01446 781688, Viv Hayes 01446 781291 and Paul Fisher 01446 781686.

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NURSERY SUPPORTS MUM'S CHARITY RUNNING EFFORT

A GREAT time was had by all at St Aubin Nursery this week as the staff and children took part in a mini marathon.

A spokesperson reports: **The event was being held in support of one of our parents Mrs Hudson, who recently ran the London Marathon for the charity 'Walk the Walk' – uniting against breast cancer. Children from six weeks to four years took part in their own fun run, wearing decorative head wear in an attempt to raise money. So far, £250 has been raised with money still coming in on a daily basis. Thank you to all the staff, parents, children and friends of the nursery who have contributed.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Olympic torch

ONCE again, Sian Harries has brought honour to herself, her family and her village of Llangan.

Family and friends travelled to Dolgellau, north Wales, to join thousands of others to see her carry the Olympic torch through the centre of the town on May 28.

Sian has worn the Welsh verst in athletics but she and her immediate family have always shunned publicity.

Several years ago, Sian broke her back in a sporting accident in Australia but she did not let that deter her spirit of adventure and is now head of the physical education department at Caereinion High School in Powys.

She was nominated to carry the torch by her pupils, who see her as an inspirational teacher with a love of life and a faith in what sport can give to everyone.

Sian Harries, with torch.

Llangan School's Jubilee tea party

DUE to the threat of a rainy afternoon it was decided to hold Llangan School's Jubilee celebration in the school hall.

Then, the skies brightened.

When I arrived as an invited guest, the children were indeed in high spirits, enjoying the festive goodies outside in the playground.

There were tables with bright coverings, flags placed at every vantage spot and it was a truly memorable day.

Good news!

THE long-awaited car park for Llangan School is now in the final stages of completion – the official opening of the facility will take place on Monday, June 11 at 9am, in the presence of Mr John Homfray, Alun Cains MP, Jane Hutt AM, and everyone who has worked so hard to bring this much needed facility to fruition.

Ladies day

ONCE again, the Star Inn, Treoes will be the venue for an imaginary day at Ascot.

On arrival, you will be offered a glass of Pimms and lunch will be served at 1pm. Those ladies wishing to place a bet in the hope of a winner, will be able to do so.

Raffle tickets will be available with various prizes, and to add to the entertainment, there is a prize for the prettiest hat.

Tickets for this Ascot afternoon cost £15, and can be obtained from Mary Crandon on 01656 861933.

James' run at an end?

LLANTRISANT teenager James Davies has seen his run in a nationwide musical competition come to an end at the area final stage on May 27, but he may still realise his dream with the result of a public vote.

James, of Southgate, was performing in the popular Live and Unsigned competition, with the area final held at Sub89 in Reading on May 27.

Performing in front of judges such as Katie Holmes (singer with artists such as Professor Green and Jessie J) and Michael King (head of BGM), among others, he failed to progress, but was awarded £125 worth of music lessons with Let's Play Rock in the TC Electronic Exposure Award for being one of the artists with the most publicity gained in the press, leading up the the previous regional final round – held at the Coal Exchange in Cardiff.

The feedback given by the judges said: "Wouldn't have been my first choice of cover with Ed Sheeran being just so popular and it just wasn't different enough.

"James' own song was a good one, but did struggle a little on the end notes at times to fully bring it home."

Yet there is a chance to earn a 'wildcard' in to the grand final at London's O2 Arena on July 14, with all those who didn't progress from the area finals being entered in to a public vote, with one progressing.

At the grand final, James would be in with a chance of winning £20,000 of development and publicity, a UK tour and performance spots at UK festivals and European shows.

To see the competition, and watch videos of James in action, visit: www.liveandunsigned.uk.com, and with just a week to vote, text 'wildcard610' to 84222 to give James support.

Decorative pots and Jubilee tea!

AT the May meeting, members of Cowbridge Friendship Club again showed their artistic skills by painting butterlies, dragonflies, beehives and bees onto ceramic pots so they will have the most decorative pots to show off their favourite plants.

Then followed the usual afternoon tea and cakes, before members went home, not only armed with their pots, but with their exclusive invitation to attend a special Diamond Jubilee tea party at the next meeting on June 28.

With all the Diamond Jubilee festivities over, this will be something to look forward to.

We always have a variety of activities at our meetings so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join our Friendship Club, where transport is provided, please ring 01656 668446.

PAT SMITH (Leader)

Southernmost Jubilee beacon

VALE MP Alun Cairns and Coun Jeff James joined Porthkerry and Penmark Scouts at the lighting of their Jubilee beacon at Fontygary Leisure Park.

This was the southernmost beacon to be lit in Wales. Crowds joined in the celebrations, that concluded with the beacon being lit at 10.10pm precisely.

Old Hall results

THE results for Cowbridge Old Hall Bridge Club in May were as follows:

May 2, club pairs competition: First – Glenda Roberts and Colin Easterbrook; Second – Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft.

May 9: First – Amy Owen and Debbie Rosevear; Second – Marion Stephenson and Susan Norris.

May 16: First – Kate Ferguson and Luba Ashworth; Second – David Stephenson and Graham Norris.

May 23: First – Beth and Phil Forbes; Second – Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft.

May 30: First – David Stephenson and Graham Norris; Second – Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft.

Special congratulations to Glenda Roberts and Colin Easterbrook on becoming the overall champions in the club pairs competition.

SB

Diamond Jubilee holds memories for local ladies!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Diamond Jubilee celebrations brought back some very special memories for one pair of Cowbridge sisters – because 60 years ago, one of them was at the centre of another royal occasion.

It was in May 1952 that there was great excitement at Fonmon in the James household, when Olive James found that she had been chosen to represent the Glamorgan cadets of the St John Ambulance at the coronation of Queen Elisabeth II.

Her sister Mary contacted The GEM with her memories of that exciting time. By a strange coincidence, the James sisters are now the Thomas sisters – as both married gentlemen by that name.

Mary said: "Olive, who was 17 at the time, was chosen as one of only two cadets in Glamorgan who were selected to go to the coronation, which was in June – so the day before, she and my mother travelled to London to stay with an aunt in north Finchley.

"She didn't get much sleep because she was too excited, and she and mum had to leave at 4am to take the tube into London.

"Even then the tube trains were absolutely packed with people leaving early to get a good vantage point."

Olive's instructions were to stand at the Cenotaph, and they had to walk quite a long way to get there.

As they walked up the Mall, the pavements were already packed three or four deep with people who had camped overnight.

Olive's recollection suggests that the British were not as docile in a queue as people might imagine.

Mary said: "Some people thought they were trying to steal their pitch and mum and Olive were pushed and shoved – and even hit with umbrellas!"

Olive was in position at the Cenotaph at 6am – and then her mother had to leave, get back on the train and head back to north Finchley to watch on TV!

As with many other households, Mary and Olive's aunt had bought a TV specially for the occasion.

Olive stood there in her uniform from 6am, from start to finish, and had a great view of everything – even though it rained.

In fact, her outstanding memory is of the Queen of Tonga, resplendent in multi-coloured robes, waving to the crowds from an open carriage, ignoring the rain and smiling at everyone!

She was there until 6pm – but time seemed to fly, although she did wear holes in the toes of her stockings after standing all day!

Finally, she made her own way back to north Finchley on the tube.

This time, the streets were full of people singing and dancing.

Mary said: "Olive has the most marvellous memories of a wonderful day – and has treasured them for 60 years!"

VALE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club night, Monday May 21 (17 pairs):

First – Mary Moore and John Beard, 68.88 per cent; Second – Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 57.79 per cent; Third – Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 57.44 per cent; Fourth – John Evans and Steve Byrgoyne, 55.54 per cent; Fifth – Amy Owen and James Mangles, 53.25 per cent; Sixth – John Henson and Dennis Smith, 52.92 per cent.

Monday May 28, club night (18 pairs): First – Alan Lewis and Terry Evans, 70.83 per cent; Second – John Henson and Geoff Tinkler, 65.18 per cent; Third – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 59.52 per cent; Fourth – Anne Hughes and Teri Pollard, 56.55 per cent; Fifth – Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 55.36 per cent; Sixth – Muriel Maslin and Joan Bird, 52.98 per cent.

Cowbridge & District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian), club night, Tuesday May 22 (13 pairs): First – Sara Bartlett and Teri Pollard, 64.50 per cent; Second – Pat and Brian Swain, 64 per cent; Third – Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 60 per cent; Fourth – Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 56 per cent; Fifth – Sylvia Phillips and Margaret Ashcroft, 55 per cent; Sixth – Dot Isaac and Diane Lewis, 52.50 per cent.

Tuesday May 29, club night (14 pairs): First – Helen and Mike Ruttley, 62.92 per cent; Second – Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes, 62.08 per cent; Third – Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard, 61.67 per cent; Fourth – Margaret Bancroft and Sylvia Williams, 56.25 per cent; Fifth – Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 55.83 per cent; Sixth – Irene Daniels and Marian Arnold, 50.83 per cent.

BS

Learning of life as a lighthouse keeper in Vale

NEWS FROM Y BONT FAEN WI

A FOGGY evening at the beginning of May saw a number of members touring Nash Lighthouse.

Yes, we did jump when the foghorn blew, even though we knew it was about to be sounded!

Chris took us around and gave an insight into his past career as a lighthouse keeper, as well as his current role.

The May meeting was 'Resolution', which was being put forward at the AGM in London, and was discussed animatedly.

Twelve members voted for the resolution, with five abstentions.

We carried on the meeting by discussing suggestions at a recent 'give and take' meeting organised by the Federation on how we will conduct our meetings in the future.

Members completed a questionnaire on how they perceive their WI and the style of our printed programme was also reviewed with members voting for their favourite template by placing a coin on it.

All coins went towards the ACWW fund.

June will see us undertaking a circular walk from the Sycamore Tree Inn, Colwinston. We are also holding a fundraising cream tea at a member's garden, 2 New Forest View, Aberthin Road, on Tuesday, June 12 between 2pm–4pm. Tickets £3. Contact Jean Lloyd on 01446 774311.

A meeting on 'writing your memoirs' will be held on June 21 at 8pm at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. We look forward to seeing you at any of these events.

JJ

JUBILEE CELEBRATION BENEFITS THE RNLI

Anne Sparks and Meryl Phillips manned the plant stall.

The Ladies of the Guild at the entrance to Orchard House.

ABOVE: Tricia Jochem and Jane Stead tempt hungry customers at the cake stall.

THE weather was kind to the Llantwit Major Ladies Lifeboat Guild on Friday, when, in glorious surroundings, a sumptuous spread of home-made fare tempted some 60 guests to an afternoon at chairman Caroline Leonard's home, Orchard House.

The stalls did a roaring trade throughout the afternoon and the raffle was also well patronised. The welcoming glass of bubbly helped to put the guests in the right mood to part with their money.

The ladies adopted the red, white and blue theme and together with the bunting and other festive decorations helped to set the mood of celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style.

A profit of over £750 was a just reward for the effort put in by all the helpers and chairman Caroline said: "Thanks to all the support, we are able to add a significant contribution to the RNLI funds".

Jubilee bash at St Athan school!

ST ATHAN Primary School went to town with their Jubilee celebrations last week.

The children have learned about the history behind the Queen's Jubilee, created flags, wall hangings and bunting, as well as coming to school wearing red, white and blue.

The grand finale of the school Jubilee week was a super street party organised with the help of the school PTA.

All of the pupils and staff at the school would like to take this opportunity to thank Greggs Bakery in Llantwit Major, who made 200 muffins for our party, all our PTA members and our very supportive parents.

The celebrations were a huge success and will be remembered for a long time to come.

LH

OLYMPIC TORCH SHINES IN ST ATHAN PRIMARY

Pauline Eastment brought her Olympic torch in to show the pupils of St Athan Primary School.

PUPILS at St Athan Primary School had a huge surprise on Wednesday May 30 when the Olympic torch arrived for them all to see.

Mrs Pauline Eastment, a member of the St Athan community, was chosen to carry the torch through Barry.

To share this experience with the pupils at the school, Mrs Eastment was kind enough to bring the torch in for all the children to see and hold.

This was a very exciting event for all pupils and staff. We would like to thank Mrs Eastment for sharing this with our children. LH

Mum to tackle a Kenyan bike challenge for cancer charities

ABOVE: Jo McGuigan (centre) with generous supporters Gerard Davies and Louise Edwards of Beespoke Cycles.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A PENARTH mother of four, who has been inspired by a close friend with cancer, is to attempt a 400-kilometre bike ride in Kenya to raise money for three charities close to her heart.

Jo McGuigan (36) told The GEM: "My friend Karen, who lives in Cardiff, is a mother to six children and is now expecting her seventh.

"She had been diagnosed with cervical cancer and cannot have any treatment until the baby is born. She is currently 30 weeks pregnant.

"Karen is the inspiration behind me wanting to go to Kenya for the cycling marathon.

"I want to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care, Ovarian Cancer Action and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust."

Jo will travel to Kenya in June 2013, but in the mean time is planning to take part in an event this autumn to start the ball rolling.

She said: "As a halfway stepping stone, I intend to run the Cardiff half marathon in October.

"I'm aiming to raise £5,000 for the three charities."

Jo's motivation has already been boosted by the fact that she has managed to shed four stone for the two upcoming events.

"I'd like to lose another six stone," she added.

Beespoke support

The Kenyan bike ride is quite an undertaking for a single mum with four children – Jordan (18), Ashley (15), Georgia (11) and Morgan (9) – and a generous local company who heard about her challenge, Beespoke Cycles, based in Palmerston, have come to her aid and given her a bike to train on.

Louise Edwards of Beespoke Cycles explained: "We gave Jo the bike because we wanted her to raise as much as possible in sponsorship for such good causes."

Louise's colleague Gerard Davies explained: "What we have provided Jo with is a bike that will be equivalent to the one she will use in Kenya.

"It is a lightweight, good quality, 21-speed bike that is the female version of the one that we provided for the Barry police force. It is a good quality bike that would last the course."

To support Jo's fundraising, please go to: www.justgiving.com/jo-mcguigan; and for more information go to: Facebook.com/cycleken yaforcancerre-searchjune2013.

News from Llantwit Major Comprehensive

LLANTWIT MAJOR Comprehensive School recently presented pupils in years 7-10 with awards for achieving 100 per cent attendance from September 2011.

Awards were also given for achieving the highest points in each year group and form group and for those pupils receiving no minus points. Points are received for recognition of effort, achievement and participation in lessons and extra curricular activities.

A spokeswoman said: "We look forward to receiving data for the summer term when we will be aiming for more pupils to achieve highly, in addition to achieving 100 per cent attendance."

100 per cent attendance from September (Year-7):

Georgia Dawkins, Phoebe Jones, Ellie Jose, Robert Orchard, Cole Baker, Olivia Symonds, Anya Trudgian, Dylan Chattoe, Alexander Compton, Jac Rees, Cara-Marie Wibley, Callum Chattoe, Rhys Richards, Nina Tombs.

Highest points out of the whole of year-7:

First, Bethany Barrell. Second, Alice Teague. Third, Charlotte Davidson.

Highest points earner in each form group:

7RAB, Eva Thomas. 7SM, Erin Baker. 7RC, Heather Bowkett. 7DH, Shania Groves. 7CH, Ellie Jose. 7RJ, Alex Compton. 7LJM, Caitlin Dolman.

Highest points out of the whole of year-8:

First, Megan Brown. Second, Chloe Lee. Third, Jordan Evans.

Highest points earner in each form group:

8SPD, Braiden Bennett. 8RS, Dafydd Jones. 8LM, Connor Thomas. 8LFM, Jade Murphy. 8CP, Ryan Griffiths. 8KE, Morgan Davies.

100 per cent attendance from September 2011:

8KM, Megan Aspell, Jordon Cooper, George Males, Daniel Owen, Alexander Wear, Cher Whitelock. 8LM, Sion Middleton, Iwan Williams. 8CP, Joshua Brown, Jay Coles, Sophie Doogue, Ryan Griffiths. 8LFM, Ethan Forrest, Megan Harris, Carys Taylor. 8RS, Tristan Chiplin, Ffion Edwards, Allison Hanover, Nia Rees, Amber Taylor, Matthew Young. 8SPD, Joseph Hopkins, Charlotte Lucas, Nadia O'Dare, Thomas Slimings, Jacob Young.

Highest points out of the whole of year-9:

First, Elen Jenkins/Shannon Thomas. Second, Richard Dangerfield. Third, James Cousins/Kathryn Llewellyn/Carri-Ann O'Toole.

Highest points in each form group:

9NE, Matthew Cleave. 9LW, Ruth May. 9KH, Lara Tombs. 9PAB, Ethan Reed Spargo. 9PF, Charlotte Law. 9SN, Catlin Chattoe.

Highest points out of the whole of year-10:

First, Ellie Atkinson. Second, Erin Hayes. Third, Megan Cairns

Highest points in each form group:

10DP, Charlotte Booth. 10JD, Zoe Ping. 10NJR, Melissa Ringstead. 10ST, Chloe Watkins. 10YK, Sophie Irving. 10AES Gabriel Mason. 10AJB Ceri Davies.

'Older people's voices must be heard,' *says the new commissioner*

AFTER taking up her new position as Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira has stated that older people's voices must not only be heard, but that their wealth of knowledge and experience used to ensure that our communities and public services meet the needs of an ageing population.

A key priority for Ms Rochira will be engaging with older people in their communities throughout Wales. She will travel extensively during her first week in post, as part of an ongoing programme of engagement, to gather the views of older people and ensure that their voices are at the heart of her work.

Ms Rochira stated: "As Commissioner, I exist to make a meaningful difference to the lives of older people in Wales and I am passionate about delivering positive change on their behalf.

"I will ensure that they have a strong voice, and will be a vocal advocate and champion for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

"Too many older people in Wales live in poverty, isolation, have poor health, experience discrimination, abuse and a lack of choice and control. Tackling these issues is a challenge for us all in Wales."

Generation X

GENERATION X, an intergenerational art project producing wooden sculptures which depict the Vale through the decades, is being launched in the Vale tomorrow (June 8).

The project is funded by the Arts Council for Wales and has brought together the Vale's Older People's Forum and young people from the area to share their memories and views of life in the Vale.

Artists Laura Gower and Kate Murphy designed six pieces of work for the project.

During February half term, participants worked together to bring the art to life.

Now completed, the collection has been moved to Porthkerry Park, as part of the Woodland Trial, where it will remain for all local residents and visitors to the area to enjoy.

The launch of the collection will take place at 5.30pm at PorthKerry Park (near the café). Following the launch, light refreshments will be provided in the log cabin.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

THE three villages (St Brides Major, Southerndown and Ogmore-by-Sea) carnival committee are busy making final arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee Carnival and Dance.

They will take place on Saturday June 1, commencing at 1.30pm at the Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major.

If you fancy taking part in the procession with a 'float', commencing at Rivermouth, Ogmore-by-Sea, or having a stall on the field, you are welcome to contact committee members Meryl James (01656 880681) or Eileen Matthews (01656 880235).

Entrance to the field is £1 per adult and children up to the age of 16 are free. Car boot or stalls: £5. Car parking facilities available.

The dance will start at 7.30pm in the marquee on the carnival field, dancing to a live band with a licensed bar till midnight – entrance by ticket only at £2 per person over 16.

Any help setting up in the day on Friday/Saturday and clearing on Sunday at any time would be greatly appreciated.

THE local produce market was held in the church hall on Saturday May 19, together with the local library service, which is proving a huge success.

THE St Brides Major branch of the Mother's Union held their monthly Eucharist at All Saints Church, Southerndown, on Friday May 24, which was well attended.

THE funeral took place at All Saints Church, Southerndown, of John Parsloe of West Farm Road, Ogmore-by-Sea, a well respected gentleman; followed by a cremation at Coychurch.

John had been ill for some time, bravely borne; and leaves a beloved wife Mary.

It was the first time a funeral service has been held in All Saints, Southerndown

Dewi Sant pupils go 'creepy-crawly'

Pupils recently enjoyed a 'mini-beast hunt' at Ysgol Dewi Sant.

THE children at Ysgol Dewi Sant in Llantwit Major recently took part in a 'mini-beast hunt' at the school.

Equipped with a tick-sheet, clipboard and pencil, magnifying glass and viewer each, off they went exploring in the school garden area.

They looked under rocks, beneath flower pots, inside tyres and inside the mini-beast hotel to see what they could find!

They were not disappointed. The children recorded seeing ladybirds, worms and beetles to name, and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in the process! RS

Queen Elizabeth part of Senedd's young history

Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in Wales began in full with the Diamond Jubilee royal tour in April, starting with a national service of thanksgiving in Llandaff Cathedral, which I was privileged to attend.

It was a very moving service with people from all walks of life in Wales, as well as all generations, taking part.

As well as the excellent cathedral choir leading the singing, the inter faith communities were represented and took part in the prayers.

It was lovely to meet many of my constituents that day, including young people in the Scouts and Guides, who were excited to be at the event.

During the two day royal tour, children lined the streets to greet the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh and she was warmly welcomed at all the places she visited.

Last week, the First Minister Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM opened a debate in the Senedd, to congratulate the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee and to pay tribute to her steadfast support for Wales over the last 60 years.

He said: "*This is a truly historic occasion and I get a real sense that across Wales, it has been embraced by people from all walks of life and different communities*."

He outlined some of events taking place across Wales during Jubilee week, including the lighting of beacons and street parties – both formal and informal.

He also told the Assembly that he had been invited by the 1st Battalion Royal Welsh to attend their Diamond Jubilee Parade and to present a number of Diamond Jubilee Good Conduct and Long Service Awards.

There were a number of events in the Vale organised by groups, communities, churches and schools.

Some of them took place last week leading up to the Bank Holiday, such as Jenner Park School celebrations and the Castaways Club in Trinity Street, who were enjoying their Jubilee celebrations on June 1 after their successful cake sale and coffee morning.

Services, picnics and street parties were held and events go further into the summer, including the Age Concern Friends and Neighbours Party on June 14.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations follow swiftly on from the excitement generated by the Olympic Flame torch bearers who carried the flame through Dinas Powys and the streets of Barry on Saturday, May 26.

From the early hours of Saturday morning, people came to line the streets and cheer the torch bearers and their supporters.

A memorable occasion for all those who took part, which paves the way for an exciting 2012 Olympic summer uniting us across the world.

Queen Elizabeth II opened the new Senedd in 2006 and has been present at all our inaugural ceremonies over the past 13 years since the National Assembly for Wales came into being. She has watched our progress, as we strengthen in powers and confidence and has taken a great interest in our developments.

She is part of our young history and we were able to acknowledge that with dignity and respect in the Senedd last week as we have been doing throughout Wales in our Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

WHAT'S ON /*in brief*

AM holds surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, June 8) at the Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys, from 4pm-6pm.

Elder abuse awareness

THE Vale Older People's Strategy Forum hosts an event in the Civic Library, Kings Square, Barry on June 15 from 9.15am-3pm, to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, will be present.

Stalls will include Atal-y-Fro, Community Safety, Cardiff Women's Aid, AdvantAGE scheme, Vale Volunteer Bureau, TeleV, Supported Housing, and Housing Benefits.

RUGBY SQUAD'S DAYBREAK LINE-UP FOR VALE HOSPICE

ABOVE: The Welsh rugby squad dropped in with the Daybreak team to visit the children at Ty Hafan.

DAYBREAK came very early for Ty Hafan recently as children, families and staff prepared to 'go live' on ITV's Daybreak, as part of the network's awareness-raising schedule to highlight Children's Hospice Week 2012.

As a prelude to going live, some of the children between the ages of 10-16 joined the Welsh rugby squad at their Hensol training ground for an afternoon meeting the players and being filmed in readiness for the programme.

Presenter Gethin Jones, no stranger to the hospice, was around for both occasions to interview some very excited youngsters and their parents about how the support of Ty Hafan makes a difference to their lives.

As part of the show, the teenage girls and ladies were treated to an early morning manicure by the girls from the Hair & Nail Lounge @ Triniti, where they were joined by Gethin Welsh international Mike Phillips, who also dropped in to take part in the fun.

Ty Hafan's Liz Rundle said: "It was a really early start but everyone had been looking forward to having Gethin and the crew here at the hospice.

"It was fantastic to be part of the national televised campaign for Children's Hospice Week and the young people who took part absolutely loved it."

Blue weighted recycling bags are now on sale

RECYCLING in the Vale continues to get even easier, as the Vale Council introduces an alternative recycling container for residents.

Now on sale at the council are blue co-mingled recycling bags, costing just £1 each. They are made from the same material as the council's green reusable garden waste recycling bags.

The Vale Council's director of visible and housing services, Miles Punter, explained: "Each blue bag has a 500g weight sewn into the base, intended to minimise the instances of bags being blown away in windy weather.

"The recycling bags also have Velcro-secured lid seals, helping to contain residents' recycliing when placed out on collection days."

The 60-litre capacity bag folds neatly away when it's not in use, and can be used to contain paper, glass, cans, card, plastic, drained aerosols, clean foil and cartons such as Tetrapak. This allows users to continue to divert even more material from landfill sites.

Coun Rob Curtis, cabinet member for the environment and visible services, said: "While some residents remain very happy with using a recycling box, there are some who have expressed an interest in using an alternative container.

"We are delighted that blue co-mingling recycling bags are now on sale at the value price of £1.

"Residents are welcome to write their names and/or addresses on their bags, to better ensure they are returned once emptied by recycling crews."

"By offering choice, with a different container on sale, we hope that even more residents will recycle a larger amount of materials, with greater frequency."

The sturdy new recycling bags are immediately available from the Civic Office, Barry, or the Alps Depot, Wenvoe, with plans to sell them at local libraries in the near future.

For more information, visit the council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle; email visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or telephone 01446 700111.

To find out more, either follow the council on Twitter: @VOGCouncil or via Facebook: Vale of Glamorgan Life.

Rotarians honour Cowbridge citizens

COMMUNITY and vocational awards are presented by Cowbridge Rotary Club to residents who have made significant contributions to our community.

Alf and Val Charles are most worthy recipients as they have both, over very many years, been involved with countless local activities and have been a source of inspiration.

Val has been a pillar of the church in St Hilary and Cowbridge; and helps those who are less fortunate, especially the older members of our society, the NSPCC, British Heart Foundation, and Meals on Wheels.

Alf is a well known church campanologist and a keen member of the cyclists; club in the Vale. He has been a tremendous support to Val and shares her passion for serving others and making a difference.

Mrs Sandra Williams was also recognised and presented with an award; she has provided highly valued voluntary work in the local community.

In her professional life as a school teacher and skilled musician, she has for more than 35 years taught music to generations of children, bringing school music into the community with concerts and performances, marking her out for special praise.

Sandra continues her unbroken service for 31 years to Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, which she began as assistant accompanist in October 1971, rising to accompanist in 1988.

Furthermore, she accompanies St Hilary church choir and provides music for monthly services which take place at Southways, Cowbridge old people's home.

We congratulate and salute all of the recipients! **NB**

Above: Alf and Val Charles. Below: Sandra Williams, with president Geoff Jones.

Pupils meet Torchbearer

RIGHT: Llantwit pupils were delighted to hold the Olympic Torch.

YEAR-7 pupils at Llantwit Major School were lucky enough to meet Sarah Aston from Barry, who was one of the Olympic Torchbearers through the town on May 26.

Sarah, who works at Cardiff International Airport, was selected to carry the Torch through her fundraising work for Cancer Research UK.

The pupils all got to hold the Torch and fielded some interesting questions for Sarah.

The pupils would like to say a massive thank you to Sarah, and to Catrin Elis for organising the event.

SL

School's clean sweep in writing

IT was a clean sweep for Cowbridge Comprehensive School at the recently held Cowbridge Book Festival's creative writing competition.

The school took the first three prizes and had two special mentions in the secondary school category that was open to all of the secondary schools in the Vale.

The prizes and certificates were presented to the winning recipients at the school by the creative writing competition co-ordinator, Mrs Vivienne Charlton.

Ruth David, was the winner overall, while Hannah Lee took second and Nia Wornham Price third. There were also special mentions for Harrison Pritchard and Daniel Marshall.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

VALE CELEBRATED JUBILEE IN STYLE!

LAST weekend showed the best of the Vale of Glamorgan and of the UK. As I write this column, we are concluding our Diamond Jubilee weekend celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen, who has just arrived at St Paul's Cathedral.

There was an array of festivities and events across the Vale and the rest of the country to mark and celebrate 60 years of our Monarch's reign.

I had the privilege of attending a number of local events in Barry, Peterston Super Ely, Ewenny, Corntown, Cowbridge and Fontygary.

Local schools and charities held parties; churches joined with other denominations to give thanks; street celebrations brought neighbours together (who don't always see each other because of today's busy lives).

Community fetes were organised from Barry to Ewenny; locals dressed in red white and blue to celebrate the Union; and Scouts and others lit beacons late into the night.

One of my favourite fancy dress winners was a family who dressed up as the royal crest, including the shield, the lion and unicorn – a fantastic effort that had taken weeks of planning and definitely worth it! Few free nations around the world would come together to celebrate and show support for 60 years reign of their head of state. Such efforts truly demonstrate the respect and affection in which we hold the Royal Family, and the Queen in particular.

Conservative MP
Alun Cairns
reports to GEM readers

Their service to our nation is uncompromising and offers stability that is needed in an ever-changing world. The Prime Minister and his predecessors have all commented on her sound advice on difficult occasions for our nation.

The respect that we show is mirrored around the Commonwealth and the globe when she travels to represent our interests overseas.

The Prince of Wales' charities' have supported more business start-ups than the Welsh Development Agency ever did. The Prince's Trust helps young people take that first step and Prime Cymru seeks to harness the experience older people could bring to business. His passion for the environment and sustainable architecture and design is a conscious on all our shoulders.

The late Princess of Wales contributed hugely to our understanding of HIV and AIDS. At a time when there was significant confusion and prejudice, she engaged sufferers. This did more to explain the reality than any advertising campaign ever could.

It also seems that Prince William and Prince Harry are following these important traditions from their parents. Few individuals could command such respect and response to their appeals.

In a democratic world, it can be difficult to explain the hereditary principle. Politicians come and go and it has been a delight to celebrate the Queen's reign.

She has been a constant throughout our lives and, from my experience, the Vale of Glamorgan celebrated in style.

PROMOTION FOR MEGAN!

AIR Cadet, Megan Hamblin (19) of 372 (Barry) Squadron, has recently been promoted to the top rank of Cadet Warrant Officer – after six years loyal service, hard work and dedication.

Megan's career with the Air Training Corps (ATC); has included flying in military aircraft, gliding, sport, shooting, hill walking, camping, being appointed the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, attending summer camps at RAF stations in the UK and overseas, as well as fundraising for the Royal Air Forces Association.

Megan is currently working towards completing her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award and is a keen musician. She regularly leads and performs in the Squadron band.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Commanding Officer 372 Squadron said: "This promotion to the highest rank is richly deserved. Very few Cadets will ever achieve this rank.

Megan thoroughly deserves this promotion for her years of dedication, service and commitment to the ATC and 372 Squadron".

Megan received her promotion from Wing Commander Ken Pudney, Officer Commanding No 1 Welsh Wing.

After her promotion Megan said: "I was really chuffed to be promoted. I am looking forward to the responsibilities which now come with my new rank".

Megan will now be assisting with the Squadron training programme activities which include: flying, gliding, shooting, visits, sport, projects, band and adventurous training.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for young men & women between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or 01446 747734 or email 372@aircadets.org.

JH

District nurse Christine retires

COLLEAGUES and friends have said farewell to district nurse Christine Foster, who retired on June 1, from Broad St Clinic.

She has worked as a team leader for Ravenscourt Surgery and Highlight Park Medical Centre in Barry, during 40 years' service to the NHS, starting work as a qualified nurse in 1972, and has spent most of her nursing career working in the community.

A committed and motivated nurse throughout her career, she will be greatly missed by all her colleagues, patients, GPs and surgery staff.

Her team – Sarah, Kath, Lois, Jo, Carly, Cherie, Mary and not forgetting Deb, join in wishing her a very happy retirement.

Enjoy watching Jeremy Kyle and Good Morning! **KE**

Farmers' Jubilee hamper draw

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' market celebrated the Diamond Jubilee with the market stalls decorated with bunting and flags.

A free draw was made for two fantastic hampers filled with delicious produce donated by the market stall holders.

The draw was made by Mrs Geraldine Middleton-Stewart MBE, who was visiting the market from Surrey. The first prize hamper was won by Mrs Lauren Davies, from Oxford, who was visiting her parents at Llansannor.

The second prize hamper was won by Mrs Eleanor Wilson of Trebettyn, Cowbridge, who is a regular supporter of the Farmers' Market.

"Congratulations to them both, and we hope they enjoy their goodies," said spokeswoman Myfanwy Edwards.

Vale MP is 'proud to launch manufacturing competition'

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns said he was "proud to be launching the 'We Made It!' competition in the Vale, working with local schools and industry to help young people understand how exciting and rewarding a career in manufacturing could be".

The competition will invite young people aged 13-16 to submit designs and ideas for a gadget, gizmo, toy or tool they'd like to see made.

Any invention, no matter how creative, is welcome, and as long as it's realistic enough to be made there's a chance it could be!

The entries will be judged by Mr Cairns and the winner will be entered into a nationwide competition judged by a group of organisations involved in manufacturing.

The best entries nationwide will be invited to a Fab Lab, the outstanding facilities provided by MIT and the Manufacturing Institute, where their designs will be manufactured and brought to life.

Later this autumn, Mr Cairns will bring the winner of the Vale competition to a reception and awards ceremony in Parliament.

They will have an opportunity to meet the heads of manufacturing organisations involved in the project, and learn how to take their career further.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm very proud to be supporting this great project to help young people turn their ideas into reality.

"The UK desperately needs more young people aspiring to high-level manufacturing jobs, and gaining a better understanding of how the industry and businesses involved in it actually works.

"From the schools I've visited across the Vale, I'm sure that we have the young talent to succeed in this competition. It's a great opportunity."

To enter the competition, pupils can visit: www.wemadeituk.co.uk.

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Air Cadets join Barry branch

SENIOR air cadets from 372 (Barry) Air Training Corps Squadron have been invited to join the Barry branch of the RAF Association.

Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO) Megan Hamblin and Cadet Sergeant Adam Wood were the first to sign on the dotted line and now actively take part in open branch meetings.

When the Barry branch was forced to dispose of its club facility some three years back, the branch committee searched for an alternative venue.

Barry Air Training Corps Squadron's building was an ideal location for the branch members to come together on a regular basis.

With help from the Commanding Officer of 372 Squadron, an agreement was reached with HQ Air Cadets, for a 'peppercorn rent', to hold monthly 'temperance' meetings (much to some visitors' surprise).

To form a closer bond with the Air Cadets, who have helped the branch tremendously with 'bag packing' for Wings Appeal, the branch decided to adopt 372 (Barry) ATC Squadron and the certificate to that effect is now proudly displayed on the squadron's wall.

CWO Megan Hamblin reports regularly to the committee on the achievements of the cadets.

The stats on collecting over the years proved cadets have averaged over 80% of the money collected.

At the Squadron's annual presentation evening, the cadet collecting the most money is presented with a framed aircraft print and the 'Gwelfor Thomas' shield, honouring a founder member of 372 Squadron and Hon Welfare Officer of the branch for 29 years.

The Barry branch is proud of the efforts by the Air Cadets for their assistance over the years. With the Hon Welfare Officer receiving the Wings 20% rebate, it has meant the branch can continue to support ex RAF personnel who live locally in the Llantwit / Rhoose / Barry area.

Meg Hamblin & Adam Wood.

ABOVE: Chairman Geoff Horton welcomes CWO Megan Hamblin and Cadet Sergeant Adam Wood to the Barry RAF Association branch.

Beach Boys' rare single auctioned to support Daniel

A RARE, framed and signed white vinyl Beach Boys single will be auctioned off to raise funds to help support Daniel, a local Barry boy who was born with a rare malignant tumour at the top of his spine.

The auction will form part of a special event and raffle at the Bryn Hill Golf Club in Barry on June 9 with tickets costing £5 each. All money raised will be donated to the Daniel's Cwtch Fund, which is used to provide additional care and support for Daniel, as well as support for CLIC Sargent and LATCH.

"I've known Daniel's parents for a long, long time - his dad came to my wedding," said CAVC Deputy NVQ Co-ordinator Lisa Taylor, who has organised the event. "As soon as the Fund was launched we decided to do events to help the family in any way that we could."

Lisa is based at the College's Barry Waterfront site. Waterfront Co-ordinator Ceri Case arranged for the special prize. "My daughter Ellie presents a radio show in the States and when she interviewed the Beach Boys she asked them something to auction for charity," Ceri said. "It's a rare item – it was not issued for general release."

The single, Don't Fight the Sea, was issued to raise funds for victims of the March 2011 Japanese tsunami. Only 1,000 copies were produced and of those just 90 were signed by the band.

For more information, or to make a bid, contact Lisa via: lisa@tayolr-site.co.uk

Jubilee treat for locals!

LOCAL residents shopped at their Iceland stores and also ended up with £250-worth of Iceland food, plus all the goodies needed to host the biggest Diamond Jubilee party in town.

There were three winners from the area who entered Iceland's nationwide Jubilee competition to reward one customer from each of their stores with enough Iceland food and goodies to stage a celebration to remember on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

They beat thousands of other hopefuls to the prize – a party pack stuffed to the brim with party food, Jubilee bunting, table cloths, crowns and loads of other Jubilee-themed goodies to make their own Jubilee party on Sunday, June 3.

Lisa Holland won through the Barry store, Jane Jones won through the Bridgend store, and Shaney Buckley won through the Maesteg store.

Alison Laverick from Iceland said: "It's great the winners can host their own Jubilee party and invite all their friends and family to come and celebrate with them."

WHAT'S ON /*in brief*

Ladies choir

A ladies choral group, Allegro, has been launched in Penarth to sing popular standards and songs from major musicals in three part harmony.

The musical director, Ray Dibble, has over 40 years' experience in staging major productions both in Penarth and at St. David's Hall in Cardiff.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7.30pmto 9.30pm, at Albert Road Community Centre in Penarth.

There are vacancies in all sections. Telephone 029 20217681 or e.mail raydibblembe@gmail.com

PACT meetings

BARUC PACT, June 14 at Barry Island Community Hall, Friars Road at 6.45pm.

Gibbonsdown PACTt, at Gibbonsdown Residents Road Office, Coychurch Rise at 10.30pm.

Plymouth PACT, June 13t, at Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockwill Way at 7pm.

Bonvilston get-together

PEOPLE over 50 can get together for a coffee morning to make new friends at the Reading Rooms, Bonvilston, every Tuesday from 10am till 12 noon.

For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631, or email jane.platts@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk

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Rhoose
5.30pm &7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738
Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897
Barry - 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall, Winston Road
Annamarie - 01446 736534
Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd Church (Catholic) Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738
Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446 736534
Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897
Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853
Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY
Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279
Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Nia - 07793 885581
Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288
Barry - 10.15am
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Connie looking forward to 'bringing show home'

Barry's Connie Fisher as Ruth Sherwood in Wonderful Town. Courtesy of Alastair Muir.

INTERVIEW by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

BARRY singing sensation Connie Fisher has done a lot since she shot to fame on the back of winning the BBC talent contest '*How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria*?' in 2006 – landing her the leading role of Maria von Trapp in the West End production of *The Sound Of Music*.

Yet it seemed like everything she had fought to achieve had been taken away from her, after it was revealed that she had congenital sulcus vocalis, a condition from birth, that meant she had holes in her vocal cords. Doctors warned her she may never sing again.

Successful operations prevented that from happening, but altered her voice range, meaning she is now "bringing my new show home" – Leonard Bernstein's musical *Wonderful Town*.

"It was unfortunate," she told The GEM. "Losing your voice is like losing a limb. It's hard to adapt. Social occasions are difficult. You basically have to live like a nun!

"But it's a relief to be doing it again. I love my job, love entertaining, love telling stories. I've now learned to accept what I can and can't do. I'm not going to be a Julie Andrews who can sing everything, but I've learnt to sing things that I never thought I could.

"My singing coach calls it my Galaxy chocolate voice – it's smooth and a secret indulgence!"

Speaking of her new show, Connie says she couldn't wait to follow in the footsteps of one of her idols.

She added: "I had to get my musical bearings because I didn't know the show or songs at all.

"But a really big hero of mine, Maureen Lipman, played my character Ruth Sherwood in the show in the 1980s.

"I wanted to do something different to Maria to show I'm not just a one-trick pony. I wanted to make people laugh as there's always been a comedienne inside of me."

And bringing the show home to Barry will make the tour's end extra sweet for Connie, who spoke of her love for the town and the Vale as a whole.

"I miss my husband, obviously, he's the reason I'm there. I also miss the culture, the heritage, the bay is beautiful and its proximity to Cardiff makes it easy for work.

"The people are lovely. My new friends all speak Welsh and take pride in their country. And all the sea air is great for my lungs!"

And later this year, Connie will be delighted to see the National Eisteddfod come to her home county, an event she has performed in previously and is now involved with heavily, as part of the Gorsedd.

She spoke of the importance for English-speaking Vale residents not to be put off by the language barrier.

"It's not all in Welsh. Obviously you don't want to sit through hours of a language you can't speak, but there are many talented musicians, dance competitions and crafts you can enjoy. I feel it beats Llangollan [International Eisteddfod] hands down!

"I'm launching a jewellery range with Carrie Elspeth, who is from the area, at the Eisteddfod this year, so I'm really looking forward to that!"

With *Wonderful Town's* long tour coming to an end this summer, Connie says she will be entering the BBC TV studios again for filming on the hit hospital drama, Casualty.

With a bright future, she won't forget the health problems that almost brought her career to an end, and is grateful for everything she has coming her way.

"It's been a wonderful tour with four and five-star reviews everywhere. There's a chance it could go to the West End and why not?

"*I just want it to go out with a bang. with a special show in my home.*"

Barry set for Arts Festival

THIS summer, Barry will have its own Arts Festival, running from July 27 to August 5.

Canolfan Porthceri Centre secured funding from Arts Council Wales and Newydd Housing and is ready to unveil their programme of music, painting, comedy, poetry, bands, creative writing and choirs.

Established artists, such as Del Rey, will be performing for the first time in Barry and award-winning folk band Taran and Gillian Clarke, National Poet of Wales, are also part of the programme.

Community involvement will be a vital part of proceedings and everyone is invited to take part in community events marking the festival – the wall-hanging project and mural will commemorate a week where people come together to get creative and have fun. Barry is also bursting with home-grown talent and this will be on display during the many fringe events taking place.

Dot Connell, Chair of Canolfan Porthceri Centre , said: "What has been really special is the way that other organisations like Vale Blues Jazz and Roots, VOGA, Pukka Productions, Art4U, have come together to run events of their own, as part of the festival.

"It's become such a feature that we decided to call it the Fringe!"

For a full list of events go to www.porthceri.co.uk or find us on Facebook and on Twitter @BarryArtsFest.

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Grassland event

WALES YFC will attend the Royal Welsh Grassland Event at Pentre Farm, Merthyr Cynnog (by kind permission of Mr John R Davies, president of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society) tomorrow (Friday, June 8).

Floral society

JUNE will be a busy month for the Barry Floral Society: on Tuesday, (June 12) Mrs Gloria Davis of Ammanford, will give a demonstration entitled 'Those Golden Years' at 2.15pm.

On June 26, members and friends will enjoy an afternoon of 'celebration', with a demonstration by Alison Bentley of Wenvoe, a display of designs by members, and an afternoon tea (2.30pm-4pm) at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry. Visitors welcome.

Church auction

SULLY church, which has begun fundraising for work, including tree surgery, urgently needed in the parish churchyard, is holding an auction evening on June 13 in the Old School, Sully at 7.30pm. Donated antiques, china, gifts, artwork and other items. Everybody welcome; entry at the door £1.

Art society's outdoor demo

ON Thursday, June 14, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local artist and tutor Peter Cronin, who will be giving hints and tips on sketching and will lead a sketching session outdoors.

Peter paints mainly in watercolours in a traditional transparent manner, although recently he has been working with oils. He is a member of the Watercolour Society of Wales..

If bad weather prevents an outdoor session, alternative arrangements will be made for indoors.

Members are asked to bring along all appropriate materials.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge on Thursday evenings (7pm–9pm) and visitors are most welcome. For further information, visit www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

Flying circus

FRED'S Flying Circus, starring Y Bont Faen pupils, takes place on June 15-16.

Tickets available online, £6. Remaining tickets will be sold on the door on the night.

Contact Y Bont Faen Primary School, Borough Close, Cowbridge, CF71 7BN on 01446 772374.

Summer fete

THE Parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry will hold its annual summer fete in the grounds of St Cadoc's Church (the old village hall in Cadoxton) on Saturday, June 16 at 2pm.

There will be games, a bouncy castle (weather permitting), fancy dress, a grand prize draw, and many stalls with: cakes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, bottles, gifts, refreshments and more.

The Barry Brass Band will also be playing in the afternoon. Adult entry charge is 30p.

Bodie and Yogi sign up for Ty Hafan!

Portuguese water dogs – Bodie and Yogi.

BOISTEROUS brothers Bodie and Yogi have already signed up for Ty Hafan's brand new event this year – being held for that very special friend in your life – your pet dog!

'Hounds for Pounds' will take place on Sunday, August 5 in Margam Country Park between 11am-4pm.

Entry costs £5 per adult, all children under 16 years old go free and each entrant is asked to raise £30 minimum in sponsorship.

Register at: www.tyhafan.org/hounds, or contact 02920 672 060.

The entry fee includes parking at Margam Country Park and a special treat for all dogs.

KOOKIE'S KITCHEN

STEVE BELL is the owner of Kookie's Kitchen, Cowbridge's newest cafe, situated within Happy Days Vintage Homestore on Church Street, Cowbridge.

For the past five years, Steve was running Cookin' Camper, the catering company based around 'Cooky', the red and cream VW camper van that has been a familiar sight on Vale roads.

"Our aim at Kookie's is to serve both straightforward and some more unusual cafe foods, cooked to our own recipes, using fantastic, locally sourced ingredients," he said.

Steve has appeared on BBC2's 'One Man and his Campervan', as well as cooking live on the 'Jamie and Louise Show' on BBC Radio Wales.

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The role of a US combat cameraman

THE Americans are coming – and you can join them at the Wartime Weekend on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17.

The events run from 10am-5pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday.

Most people think of the combat soldier or the fighter pilot when they think of the war, but for local photographer Ade Pitman it's the people who captured the images and sounds of the war that fascinates, and that's why he portrays the role of a combat cameraman.

Although the first images of battle were captured on glass plates during the American Civil War, the Second World War became the first war to be extensively recorded by the media.

With no televisions at the time, radio broadcasts were recorded during the battles and even from aircraft during bombing raids.

As the people who captured this history themselves fade into memory, these images and broadcasts bear testament to the Second World War and historians the world over owe a debt of gratitude to the bravery of these combat cameramen.

Ade commented: "I started re-enacting the role of a combat cameraman to combine my love of photography with an interest in the history of the Second World War.

"In doing this, I try to ensure that these brave men and women are remembered, including those photographers and cameramen who are currently capturing the images of the frontline that we see on today's news.

ABOVE: Ade Pitman will be documenting the Wartime Weekend in his guise as a combat cameraman.

"You can become detached from your surroundings when viewing them through a lens, which during battle re-enactments can be dangerous.

"But for the real combat cameraman it can be fatal, as Joseph Longo, founder of the International Combat Camera Association, says: 'The brave ones shoot bullets; the crazy ones shoot film'.

"During the war years, photographic film and developing facilities were almost impossible for most people to get hold of, but the Barry papers of the day show that US Servicemen were still able to take photographs; very often of their weddings to local girls."

As part of the Barry at War group's project to record the Vale's wartime history, the group would be interested to see and make copies of any of these wartime photos.

The official photographer for the Wartime Weekend, Ade Pitman, will be in action throughout the event, and the photos can be seen and purchased from his website: www.adepitmanphotography.co.uk.

Dr Jonathan Hicks

SCOTT'S SCI-FI EPIC IN SCALE,

but weak on everything else!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

WHEN Ridley Scott declared he was returning to the science-fiction genre, fans' hopes of it being linked to the *Alien* franchise were seemingly dashed, when Scott claimed there was no link between his new film and the series.

Scott must be a terribly good poker player as, further down the line, he backtracked and told how *Prometheus* would be a prequel 'of sorts' to *Alien*, leaving fans rabidly eager to sample Scott's sci-fi skill set once again.

Set in the future, it sees scientists Elizabeth and Charlie (Noomi Rapace and Logan Marshall Green) lead an expedition into the furthest reaches of space, having discovered clues to the origins of mankind.

Alongside a ragtag mob, including the likes of Idris Elba, Charlize Theron and Rafe Spall, the scientists' discoveries put the future of mankind at risk as they stumble across something incredibly dangerous...

30 years after he wrote the rulebook on sci-fi horror with *Alien*, Ridley Scott has morphed into a director of epic proportions – the likes of *Gladiator*, *Black Hawk Down* and *Kingdom of Heaven* all offering spectacle in excess. So his return to the genre that kick started his career has been met with the sort of fervour rarely seen in these days of blockbusters.

Prometheus, however, is a film that cleaves very closely to the rules Scott helped create, and while it looks unbelievably beautiful and, at times, wonderfully dangerous, is let down by a poor script and some less than impressive performances.

Scott's visual sense is keenly felt here, the opening shots absolutely gorgeous as we soar through mountains and rivers, and he maintains this level of spectacle throughout.

The film is shot beautifully, the computer graphics seamlessly incorporated into the mix delivering plenty of bang for your buck – while even the much-maligned 3D comes out OK; with even the darkest of scenes lit well enough to allow for the 3D glasses' automatic darkening not to be too much of a hindrance.

Scott and his director of photography Dariusz Wolski are on fine form throughout, but despite the gorgeous visuals, elsewhere there is not so much to praise.

When the film was announced, co-writer Damon Lindelof claimed it was a "…far cry from *Alien*" – which is fair enough, although the fact that he and Jon Spaihts have seemingly used the template of that film show it isn't that far away. In places, it feels like a tick-the-box script with large elements of foreshadowing being delivered in a less then subtle way.

The dialogue is also weak, further hampering actors who are far better than the performances they offer here.

Noomi Rapace lands the strong female role, but sadly isn't up to the task, the actress delivering a physically committed but slightly wooden turn, while the likes of Logan Marshall Green, Idris Elba and Sean Harris are all caught up playing archetypes that don't develop.

While Charlize Theron is solid, but with very little to do, the best turn on show falls to Michael Fassbender's android, who brings a detachment, but with an underlying hint of malevolence, that makes him a wildcard, never knowing what he's going to do next.

If more components had been up to the standard of Fassbender's performance then *Prometheus* would have been quite the spectacle; however, as it is, the film is simply a pleasing return to a familiar world that works better as nostalgia than as a new cinematic adventure.

VERDICT – Rich in scale and grandiose ambition, Ridley Scott's return to sci-fi is a welcome one, but *Prometheus*' failure to incorporate strong performances or script mean that this a gorgeous looking film with little under the bonnet dressed as up as something deep and meaningful. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Alien* (1977), *Pitch Black* (2000).

Residents honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards this year

THE names of south-east Wales people to be honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, have been announced.

In line with the Gorsedd of the Bards' revised arrangements for honouring new members, which are in place for the first time this year, all new members will enter the Gorsedd on the same level, irrespective of whether they are honoured into the blue or green robes.

From now on, only the winners of the main stage competitions at the National Eisteddfod will be honoured with White robes. Everyone else entering the Gorsedd will be accepted either to the blue or the green, dependent on their area of expertise.

Honorary druid – blue robes – services to the nation in the field of law, science, sports, journalism, media, local / national activities:

Born and brought up in Gilfach Goch, **Betsi Griffiths** was head-teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Tonypandy for 25 years, from the opening of the school. She is an integral part of her community as a reporter for the local *papur bro, Tafod Elai*

Gwenda Griffith has provided an unique service to the nation in the media for the past 30 years. Originally from the Vale of Clwyd, she has lived in Cardiff for many years. She set up the TV production company, 'Fflic' in the early days of S4C, and has been responsible for excellent series like '*Pedair Wal*', '*Y Ty^ Cymreig'*, and *'Cwpwrdd Dillad*'.

Carwyn Jones has been the First Minister of Wales since 2009. He has been the Assembly Member for Bridgend since 1999, and was the Minister for Education, Culture and the Welsh Language from 2007-2009.

A barrister by profession, he worked at the Gower Chambers in Swansea for ten years. He is interested in a wide range of sports, especially rugby, and is an avid fan of his local team in Bridgend.

Arwel Ellis Owen enjoyed a successful career in broadcasting, working as news editor for BBC Wales, head of programmes at the BBC in Northern Ireland, chair of the International Film School and temporary chief executive at S4C

He has greatly influenced the media, and has received international acclaim for his work. He is currently chair of the Care Council for Wales and vice-president of the National Library of Wales

Gwerfyl Thomas has made a great contribution to the cultural life of Bridgend and Porthcawl. An enthusiastic teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Maesteg, she has also been a great worker for the Tabernacle Chapel.

She was one of the founding members of Côr Merched y Fro and contributed greatly to the campaign to set up the local papur bro, 'Yr Hogwr'.

She is an enthusiastic member of the Porthcawl Literary Society and is a regular competitor in Eisteddfodau.

The Gorsedd also honours new members to the green robes for their contribution to the arts.

Those who have succeeded in the Gorsedd examination or are eligible because of their degree in literature, music, drama or art, also receive the green robes, as will the winner of the Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize every year and the winners of the Urdd Crown and Chair.

The following four south east Wales residents will also receive the Green robes.

Basil Davies, Barry, has been committed to working for the Welsh language on a professional and voluntary basis for many years.

His name has been linked with the Welsh for Adults sector for over 30 years. Although originally from Llanddarog, Carmarthen, he has lived in Barry since 1974.

The tenor voice of popular singer, **Wynne Evans**, has mesmerised audiences across Wales and beyond for over a quarter of a century. He is principal tenor at Welsh National Opera, and regularly appears with other opera companies. Originally from Carmarthen, he now lives in Cardiff.

A leading actress since the early 1960s, **Lisabeth Miles**, has enjoyed a long and varied career, and is still appearing on our screens today. She starred on Welsh stages throughout this period, becoming a firm favourite with people of all ages.

She has also been generous with her time, training young people at the Royal College of Music and Drama, and her unwavering work for Welsh culture in Cardiff is commendable.

Originally from Cardiff, **Huw Stephens**, broke onto the scene in 1999, when chosen as one of Radio 1's presenters to introduce new Welsh music to a UK wide audience.

As the station's youngest ever presenter, his career has gone from strength to strength and he always gives the Welsh language a prominent role within his programmes. He continues to broadcast in Welsh on Radio Cymru and in 2007, he created the Sw^n Festival, a brand new music festival in Cardiff

The chair of the local executive committee at each Eisteddfod will also be honoured with the blue robe in the following Eisteddfod.

Among the other well-known faces honoured this year are rugby players, Stephen Jones and Shane Williams, former footballers and commentators, John Hartson and Iwan Roberts, who will o receive the Blue robes.

A full list of recipients is on the Eisteddfod website at www.eisteddfod.org.uk

The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod is held on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from 4-11 August. Fore more information go online or ring 0845 4090 400. Tickets available online or by ringing the ticket-line – 0845 4090 800.

Barrivale Bridge

LATEST results from Barrivale: Club open pairs championship, May 15 and 22.

1st Sean Macdougall and Ann Macdougall 57.5%; 2nd Celia Thomas and Jane Brook 56.94%; = 3rd Noelle Bond and Mick Green 56.25%

= 3rd Kay Dyer and Diana Kendrick 56.25%

The Open pairs handicap winners were Kay and Diana

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In Business Update

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AT their recent annual conference, the Glamorgan Law team identified personal, locally-based service and friendliness as the qualities which best represent the Glamorgan Law brand.

Glamorgan Law is a recent amalgamation of some well-known Vale of Glamorgan law firms, Larby Williams with Gwyn and Gwyn and Beech and Co, the roots of the Gwyn and Gwyn name go back nearly 150 years.

The entire firm at Glamorgan Law have dedicated themselves to represent these long-held values to the best of their ability and to continue to strive to provide clients in Cardiff and the Vale (and beyond) with a highly-professional legal service, delivered with a smile.

Cowbridge and the Vale clients, both individuals and businesses, now have a full range of legal services – including residential and commercial property, wills and probate, family law, litigation and business law – available at Glamorgan Law's offices at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge.

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Joyous Jubilee!

Cowbridge people celebrate the Jubilee with community events

ABOVE: The ladies of the WI held a special Jubilee party.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

ABOVE: The crowd at St Hilary downs on Monday evening, caught in the glow of the beacon.

ABOVE: Young people in St Hilary enjoyed the day's Jubilee party activities.

THERE was so much taking place in Cowbridge over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

Local photographer MIKE WILCOCK had so much to choose from, and took the photos on this page at a WI Jubilee party, at the lighting of the Cowbridge beacon on St Hilary Downs, and at St Hilary's all-day extravaganza, where there was a street party, games and acivities – all meaning that the Jubilee was celebrated in style.

SEE MORE PICTURES FROM YOUR AREA ON PAGES 19 AND 20

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"WHO CARES WINS"

Rain fails to dampen the Cowbridge Jubilee spirit!

ABOVE: Looking down on a packed Duke of Wellington banqueting hall.

'We're enjoying the party!'

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Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1).

A SERIES of planned events for the day (Tuesday) were disrupted by rain, but the organisers had a plan B, and the street party and craft stall were transferred to the Duke of Wellington and Holy Cross Church respectively.

Sue Freeland, one of the organising committee, told The GEM: "We are so grateful to the Duke of Wellington for saving the day.

"It also gave us a chance to show that, now we can remove pews from Holy Cross Church, there is space there for community events.."

The party food went down a treat in the Duke, and the 'alternative queen' paraded among the tightly-packed tables.

ITV had planned to film the Cowbridge event at 6pm, but did not arrive, but the BBC arrived unexpectedly at 4pm and the 'indoor street party' made it onto the 6,30 news!

Sue Freeland added: "I don't think any of us on the organising committee were ardent royalists, but we did see the Jubilee celebration as a great chance to put on a community event, and it really worked very well!"

ABOVE: The event's 'alternative queen'.

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Joyous Jubilee!

High above Cowbridge, a beacon for Her Majesty...

Photographs by **MIKE BAKER**

ABOVE and BELOW: TV personality Ruth Wignall lit the beacon.

ABOVE There was a steel band, as well!

BELOW: The beacon in the early evening.

THERE was a fine turn-out on St Hilary Downs for the lighting of Cowbridge's Diamond Jubilee beacon.

Crowds made their way to the site, and the Town Mayor, Coun Nicola Thomas, was keen to thank all the people who had worked to make it happen.

She said: "A really big thank you goes to Nicholas Thomas, of Splott Farm, Welsh St Donats and his team, who loaned the machinery and built the bonfire.

"Richard Taylor of Ashdown Fencing was a great help, and James Rees of Inturf in Bridgend, loaned a turf cutting machine.

"Mike and Howard Gibbon provided wood, Arthur John and Co helped with transport, Llandow Tool Hire loaned a generator, Fenton Agricultural Engineers, and the St John Ambulance were there, too."

She added: "I would like also to thank the stewards who came forward, Andy Banks for the safety advice, Jon Wilks, who was the MC, Ruth Wignall for lighting it, Rev David Boult for his prayer, Gary Trotman's steel band – and my fellow members on the council sub-committee, Andrea Burges and Elisabeth George – for all their help."

Would your village like to run its own cinema?

AN organisation that supports people in the Vale countryside, is asking them the following question: "Are you interested in setting up a cinema club in your village?"

A special meeting is being held in Dinas Powys to explain what the scheme is all about.

Mari-Wyn Pivotti, senior rural regeneration officer for Creative Rural Communities, explained: "We have an exciting new initiative for rurally-based pubs and village venues in the Vale.

"If people are interested in setting up a cinema project, they might be interested in the session that we're running for pub owners and landlords, as well as village halls.

"We are running an information session for anyone who is interested in running cinema nights in their local village. This session will be held on Monday, June 11, from 6pm until 10pm at The Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

"The session will include a demonstration on the type of equipment used at a mobile cinema, and also information on how to set up this type of community cinema venture.

"It is free of charge and refreshments will be provided.

"This may then lead to the possible hiring of mobile cinema equipment from Creative Rural Communities to run a trial and, if successful, the chance to apply for one of our grants to purchase cinema equipment."

If you are interested in attending the meeting, contact Mari-Wyn Pivotti on 01446 704637 or email mwepivotti@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Skittle team member becomes an Olympic torchbearer

ABOVE: Sarah Aston carrying the Olympic torch.

SARAH ASTON, a member of the Welsh Wizards skittles team, was nominated to be an Olympic torchbearer on Saturday, May 26, in Barry.

Sarah ran the 300 metres between Whitewell Road and Port Road. Lots of friends and family were there to cheer her on.

She was nominated for her fundraising efforts for Cancer Research UK. Sarah and The Welsh Wizards Skittle Team have been organising events for the past seven years.

The team is made up of 20 local residents who decided to give up some of their spare time to organise events. They were inspired by Rachel Bourke from the ShootOut Club, who also runs marathons in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Last year, they raised more than £4,000 and each year they aim to achieve at least the same as the previous year.

Following the closure of The Three Bells, the team approached Trevor to see if they could arrange their monthly meetings at The Master Mariner and have been there since November, on the last Sunday of the month.

Sarah, a 43-year-old from Barry, works full time at Cardiff Airport at the Change Group and until recently was a foster parent.

A friend said: "She also suffers from Crohn's Disease but, despite this, she is always busy, giving up her spare time organising bucket collections, car boot sales, pub crawls, music events, duck races and even hobby horse races.

"She also takes part in The Race 4 Life every year."

Speaking after carrying the torch, Sarah said: "It was an incredible day that I will remember for the rest of my life.

"I was thrilled to be nominated and honoured to be chosen to run with the torch in my home town.

"Although it was a relatively short distance, to me it felt like a lifetime! I am not one to enjoy the limelight.

"This honour has encouraged me to continue with our efforts to raise funds for a charity that is close to my heart and my schedule is already packed with visits to local schools and community groups who are eager to share the excitement of the torch and hear all about the day.

"I will treasure the torch and experience forever."

International Glaucoma Association iga

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LEFT: Jones & Jones Optometrists, which provides the highest standards of eye care, examinations, contact lenses, and spectacle lenses, including a wide range of top designer makes – such as Gucci, Givenchy and Ted Baker.

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BETWEEN 75 per cent and 90 per cent of all your sensory information about the surrounding environment is visual.

The process of converting light into an electrical signal that your brain can interpret is a fairly complex one that involves millions of highly specialised cells only found in the eye.

Despite this, many people take their vision for granted and neglect their eyecare.

Considering the prevalence of serious eye disease, 0.3 per cent of the under-50s and over 25 per cent of the over-70s think getting a regular eye check is really important.

For the over-60s, the main three culprits are glaucoma, cataract and macular degeneration.

All of these eye diseases are treatable if caught early enough, but the problem is that they have a gradual onset and tend to creep up on people.

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CADOXTON BOWLERS' MUNRO CUP SUCCESS

CADOXTON hosted a Munro Cup game with Llantwit Major and completed a successful win.

Graham Brown, who was in superb form, had a very comfortable win on his rink against Neville Young. They conceded shots on just four ends, whilst compiling shots steadily throughout the game. Gil Powell came on as substitute when Steve Clarke became ill with four ends left.

Kelvin Chedgzoy skipped an up and down match against Mike Aplin. The home side took a 7-0 lead after five ends, but five ends later they were one shot down at 7-8. The score moved on to 11-9 but two ends later it was reversed again to 11-12. With the scores level, a 'three' on the penultimate end gave the home side the lead once more, which was reduced by one on the last.

Don Kuhnell's rink had a tight match against Steve Booker. An early 'four' gave the home side an advantage, but once this was matched with singles the advantage to either side was not more than two throughout the remainder of the game. On the 15th end the game was tied at 12-12, the advantage then went to the visitors with two more singles to make ten, in total, for the night. A single on the last left the difference of one in Llantwit's favour.

Howard Craven also had a fairly even game against Danny Ahearn; up until the 12th end, when the scores were level at 10-10. However, during the remainder of the game the visitors took command with two 'three's and three singles, whilst only two were scored against.

SCORES: S Clarke, L Adams, J Sugden, G Brown 25 – 6 K Williams, D Lancaster, A Hayes, N Young; T Bishop, D Fanning, G Davies, H Craven 12 – 19 J Crane, G Merchant, N Parry, D Ahearn; J Stacey, M Mathews, J Stewart, D Kuhnell 13 – 14 T Ingroville, G Williams, D Johnes, S Booker; R Knight, G Solomon, L Davies, K Chedgzoy 15 – 13 C Colling, A Horgan, E Sparks, M Aplin. Final score: 65 – 52.

CADOXTON V MURCH – FRIENDLY

Cadoxton and Murch played this friendly match prior to the league programme starting next week.

It ended with two winning rinks and one tied for the visitors. However, the overall result went to Murch by just one shot.

Howard Craven skipped his rink to win handsomely against what looked a strong rink, skipped by Colin Garland. The advantage after 17 ends was 22 shots, but this was reduced over the last four ends by nine shots.

Kelvin Chedgzoy found Roger Mauchline too strong after a close start, 4-6 after six ends. A 'four' started a run for the home side which only allowed the visitors a 'two' and three singles during the remainder of the game.

Don Kuhnell's four struggled to find it during the first four ends to go 1-5 down against Colin Grant. By the seventh end the scores were level and the visitors went on to lead by one after 11 ends. The home side then took command during the next six ends by scoring ten against two. A recovery, including a 'four' on the 19th, brought the scores level, until a single broke the run on the penultimate end. A two on the last reversed the advantage.

Graham Brown's rink came up against Bob Hill's rink in a close game. For most of the game they were slightly in front. Three winning ends for the visitors reversed a three-shot deficit to a three-shot advantage by the eighth end to bring the scores level.

Five wins from the next six opened a three-shot lead for the home side. A 'five' on the next regained the lead. The three-shot advantage was still held going into the penultimate end, but a 'four' gave the home side hope of a win before a single made the final outcome a tie.

SCORES: P Ellis, W Vaughan, J Crout, H Craven 27 – 14 M Warman, R Pemberton, J Mansfield, C Garland; G Solomon, J Sugden, W Eadie, G Brown20 – 20 K Crouch, G Russell, J Evans, B Hill; T Bishop, L Cundliffe, D Brook, D Kuhnell 22 – 21 S Salvidge, G Lane, I Robinson, C Grant; D Tuck, H Hellyar, L Davies, K Chedgzoy 9 – 24 D Poole, P Venn, M Hughes, R Mauchline. Final score: 78 – 79.

CADOXTON 'A' V MILLWOOD 'A' – SVL

Unfortunately, Millwood omitted to put this match on their fixture list, and did not turn up for the game at Cadoxton.

DK

CRICKET CLUB HAVE SUPPORT FROM CJ!

ABOVE: Sully Centurions Cricket Club are grateful to CJ Contract Travel for their sponsorship for the 2012 season. The picture shows Centurions' Director of Cricket Jamie Sylvester with some of the junior players after receiving their new sponsored sweaters from Chris Mort of CJ Contract Travel.

Tennis winners

OVER 20 years ago a stalwart lady of Dinas Powys Tennis Club, Ruth Tamlyn, died through cancer.

She left a pair of silver salvers to the club and for the past 23 years there has been an annual ladies' tennis tournament in her name

This year's tournament was played last month and although windy, the sun shone and 25 ladies played some fine tennis.

Seven junior members played for the first time and two of them won the tournament – Olivia Hamzelou and Libby Smith. All showed potential of strong and thoughtful play.

In the final, Janet Kennedy and Veronica Palmer put up good opposition but the youngsters had more energy and guile.

Nan Thomas, a friend and team member with Ruth, presented the salvers before supper.

Thanks to Judith Meddins (captain), Angela Rankin and Keith Hudson for their help in a successful evening.

NW

Lions cap off good season with win

Park Lions under-14s finished the season on a high note, beating Sully B 6-1.

Sully B performed well, making the Lions work hard to achieve their victory.

After the match the Lions made their way to McDonalds to celebrate.

The players of Park Lions under-14s would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Glynne Harrhy (coach and manager) and Neil Williams for providing the McDonald's meals.

The Park Lions under-14s squad: Adrian Krahulec, Conor Froud, Ajay Harrhy, Brandon Froud, Louis Froud, Sam Lewis, Mathew James, Gabriel Cleary, Adam Hazelwood, Ethan Shaw, Osian Bowden-Morgan, Ben Jones, Ryan Miller, Rhys Williams, Jacob Halliday.

The squad and manager Glynne have developed enourmously this season.

The support provided by Biology has enabled the team to progress and move forward and their help and generosity has been widely appreciated.

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MOTOR SPORT ENTHUSIASTS TURN OUT FOR POPULAR LLANDOW CHARITY EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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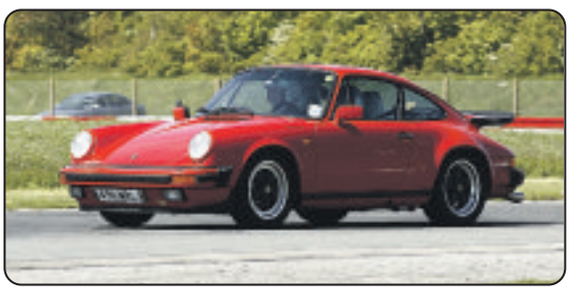
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



AN annual charity event at Llandow race circuit is well on its way to becoming a fixture on the calendar of motor sport enthusiasts after having its most successful day ever.

Every year, Christopher Darwin co-ordinates tde event from his home in Devon, and arranges for keen car drivers to travel to Llandow for the charity day.

It gives the car owners a chance to test their cars under racing conditions on a proper race track. In return, they give a donation to charity.

Mr Darwin said: "We had our best day ever at Llandow, with excellent weather, the right amount of cars and our most money raised - £2,820.

"This will be split between The Ed Evans Foundation and Combat Stress. Gift Aid will add more than £600 to the total."

He continued: "The six track days at Llandow since June 2008 have raised more than £15,000 for charity.

"My thanks go to the management of Llandow circuit for the generous discount which made this result possible."

Mr Darwin intends to repeat the event next year, and any local drivers who would like to take part and have some 'Fun with a Purpose' should contact Christopher Darwin 01288 381265 or c.darwin@virgin.net

Vale under-15s' sevens success

THE Vale of Glamorgan under - 15s rugby 7s team travelled to Church Bank, home of Llandovery RFC, to compete in the Welsh Schools under-15s Sevens tournament.

Drawn in a group including Bridgend, Pontypool, Swansea and Cardiff, they set about their task for the day well.

Firstly beating Bridgend by 17 points to 5, they followed this with convincing wins over Pontypool and Swansea.

Unfortunately their last group match was against a strong Cardiff team, losing narrowly.

This meant they progressed to the semi final of the Plate competition with opponents Swansea

The Vale team brushed aside the much-fancied west Wales side, ably led by Harry Roberts with all other squad players giving their all when called upon during the number of energy sapping matches.

In the Plate final they met Islwyn and carried on their winning ways after an inspiring team talk by coach Howell to get the players firing on all cylinders and come away from this national ournament with some silverware.

Well done to all players involved.

Squad: - Harry Roberts, Nick Boudier, John Miles, Che Pomphrey, Owain Lord, Morgan Williams, George Connelly, Steffan Baker, Matt Allen, Ed Howley and James Whittingham. **DW**

BOWLERS' JOY

ON Tuesday Llantwit Major lady bowlers welcomed Cowbridge B.C. and had quite a one sided game.

Cowbridge, who play on an artificial green, didn't get to grips with our grass and Llanwtit won on all rinks – I'm sure when we go to Cowbridge they will have their revenge.

We gained the full 10 points and the rinks were Edna Hardie, Margaret Horgan, Carol Willmot and May Davies 32 - 8; Liz Crouch, Etta Gray, Marian Lewis and Eryl Nicholls 21 - 11; Kay Johnes, Barbara Lewis, Margaret Morgan and Peggy Pike 30. - 5.

On Thursday we travelled to Barry Central and we all had a good game again, winning on two rinks and drawing on one, taking 9 out of the 10 points.

The rinks were Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan 28 -6; Liz Crouch, Vera Wickenden, May Davies and Marian Lewis 14 - 14; Edna Hardie,Maragret Horgan,Pat Cook and Etta Gray 17 -12. **KJ**

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Basketballers represent country

Basketball

WALES recently hosted Scotland at Basketball Wales Elite National Development Centre (ENDC) at Rhondda Fach Sports Centre.

As part of the preparation for the 2013 FIBA European Championships next summer, the Welsh under-16s boys took a bronze medal at the European Championships.

With Sam Roberts of Cowbridge Comprehensive starting, the under-15s have been involved in home internationals, playing Ireland in April. Two pupils from Cowbridge, Mattie Roberts and Tom Trotman, were selected following Cowbridge Comprehensive winning the Welsh basketball KS3 last year.

Despite Wales not coming home with a win, both Tom and Mattie made significant contributions in the recent international against Ireland in Dublin.

Scotland have been a dominant force in European basketball, medalling in the last two previous under-16s European Championships and once again proved tough opponents for Wales. Mattie and Tom played with pride, passion and skill in a packed arena, both scoring early in the game to give the Welsh an early lead.

Regretfully, the early momentum could not be sustained, with Scotland proving too powerful, though Mattie and Tom scored a quarter of Wales's points between them.

Next season will see internationals for the under-16s against England and Ireland, training camp in Luxemburg with the European Championships July 2013 due to be staged in Montenegro. We wish the boys every success in their goal of achieving gold next summer.

ABOVE: Members of the year-10 team pose for a group photo.

Film stars!

AROUND six months ago, the school year-10 rugby team were filmed by the Welsh Rugby Union as an example of excellence.

Sixteen of the boys were invited to attend a training session in The Vale which was filmed and used as part of the WRU coaching development component of the national website.

The players also got to meet former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils Rory Watts-Jones and Lloyd Williams who were taking part in national squad training sessions at the same time.

The boys spent the afternoon being coached by a number of WRU development officers and many of the videos can be seen on the WRU website under 'coaching development' – 'coaching locker'.

You can use the hyperlink below to access the videos.: http://www.wru-coachinglocker.co.uk/contact-rugby-(u11-u12--u13-u14)/contact-rugby-skills/lineout---u13's--u14's/decoy-movement-twinning-space.aspx

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 13 June 2012

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- Gardens

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CAERNARVON GDNS, BARRY (2)

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- Communal gardens

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- Garden
- Parking

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- Central heating
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- Gardens
- Water meter

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- Gardens

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DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 972708
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- Double glazing

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GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1028235
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- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Co-ordinator
- Communal access

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- Communal gardens

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NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 218176
Suitable for a family
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

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H4U Reference 223975
Suitable for a family
Priority given to a family with four or more children
- Three-bedroom house
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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H4U reference 1090206
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- Double glazing

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H4U Reference 228547
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cresswell Court	45	Gold +	15/04/11
Edward Street	73	Gold	25/07/11
Edward Street	65	Gold	30/06/11
Harlech Gardens	15	Gold	12/04/12
Walker Road	28	Gold	18/01/12
Trebeferad	34	Gold	20/06/11
St Lukes Avenue	51	Gold	12/09/11
Tennyson Road	79	Gold+	06/10/11
Cwm Parc	16	Silver+	06/03/12
Meirion Close	81	Gold	27/06/11
Munro Place	107	Gold	07/08/11
Pontalun Close	18	Gold	18/11/11
Severn Avenue	19	Silver+	12/03/12
West Walk	11	Silver+	06/05/12
Laburnam Way	88	Gold	06/05/11
Beatrice Road	83	Gold	24/06/11
St Garmon Close	51	Gold+	05/12/11
Thomas Court	36	Gold	26/01/12
Thomas Court	36	Gold	06/08/10
Campbell Court	36	Silver	14/08/11
Ffordd Elin	76	Gold	14/03/12
Dunlin Court	60	Gold	09/05/11
Ty Gwenfo	28	Silver	06/12/11

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this cheage will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, **one bedroom** is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be **one bedroom**, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be **one bedroom**, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be **two bedrooms**, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be **three bedrooms**, so no deduction would apply.

Please be aware of the above when making bids for properties in this advert as this may affect how much rent you pay.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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Family Notices

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Morgan Gwyn

Peacefully, on 31 May, in his sleep at St. Baruc's Ward, Barry Hospital, Morgan of Barry, beloved husband of Minty, dearly loved father and father-in-law of Huw and Debbie, Rhys and Claire, Ceri and Rachael, much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday June 11th, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Mrs. C. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

JEAVONS, Jo

It is with great sadness we announce the unexpected death of Jo, peacefully at home, on 26th May, 2012.

Loving wife to Colin, treasured mother and grandmother, who will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral at Barry Crematorium on 12th June, 2012 at 12 noon.

Family flowers only. Donations to MacMillan Nurses, c/o W A Brown, Funeral Directors.

SMITH
Annie Mary

(nee Maddocks of Stembridge Farm)

Passed away peacefully at home in Ledbury on June 4th aged 99.

Beloved mother, nan, great nan, aunty. She will be greatly missed by all her loving family and many friends.

Funeral at Llandow Church on Thursday 14th June at 12.00pm. Memorial service at Ledbury Parish Church on Friday 15th June at 10.00am.

Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for St Michaels Hospice or RNIB may be sent to R. W. Mann and Son, 51 West Street, Leominster, HR6 8EP.

McALLEN
(nee James)
Pauline

Devoted sister of Billy, Anne, Rosemary, June, Gill and Jenn, sister-in-law of Sue, Graham, Smudger, Norman, George & Geoff, auntie, great-auntie and great-great auntie.

Loved by all and will be sadly missed.

McALLEN, Pauline

The funeral will now take place on Wednesday, June 13th, 2012 at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian at 2pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made payable to UHW A6 Spinal Unit Endowment Fund, c/o Anwen Evans, Ward A6 UHW Cardiff.

TURRELL
Susan Anna *(neé Chick)*

It is with great sadness the family announce the death of Susan Anna, much loved wife of Chris, loving mother of Melissa, Paula, Carla and Kelly.

A devoted nanny to her ten grandchildren.

Treasured daughter of Maureen, sister of Marianne, niece of Gladys, sister-in-law to Nigel.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, June 11th at 10.30am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Pancreatic Cancer UK, 2nd Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Thomas David

Eira, Linda and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for their kindness and support during this emotional time.

Special thanks to Dr Kavanagh for the outstanding medical care and also to the team of District Nurses and staff at Boots of Llantwit Major.

Grateful thanks to John James of Fonmon for his professional service.

Public Notice

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Mary Brookman

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x x x

Bethan Maryann Shanklyn

Happy 18th Birthday
12th June
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XXXXX

Birth Notices

O'Sullivan **Opticians** would like to congratulate
Mrs Bethan McGovern
on the birth of her son, FINNBAR, on May 19 2012, weighing 8lb 8oz.

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Angela's 'silver jubilee' at school!

PUPILS and staff at Rhws Primary School said a big 'thank you' to Angela Butchart, a long-serving member of staff, for 25 years working with various children in her role as mid-day supervisor and as pupil support.

Angela is a popular member of staff – kind and hard-working – who has helped so many children (and other members of staff!). She received her 25 years service award and a huge bouquet of flowers...Thank you, Angela... here's to your next 25 years at Rhws! KB

Murchfield Hall focal point for community

The new officers of the Murchfield Hall management committee.

IT was all change at the Murchfield Community Association AGM when after eight years' service, Coun John Huw Williams stepped down and Coun John Fanshaw was elected chairman.

The retiring chairman was thanked for his dedication to the Association. Coun Williams, however, will not be taking it easy as he will play a leading role in preparing for the return of the Blues rugby team to the Arms Park next season.

Coun Williams said: "During the last eight years, I have seen the hall-use grow and become established as a significant focal meeting place for the community at large."

He paid tribute to the work of former treasurers Dr Joan Andrews and Elizabeth Millard and commented: "We were awarded grants for acoustic screens and new chairs. We financed a new CCTV system along with smaller items such as a microwave oven. The hall continues to be used by over a dozen regular groups."

The finances remained healthy but as always there are challenges ahead, especially considering the cost of energy. Despite this concern, the management committee has again been able to hold rental costs.

The hall is the base for the Murchfield Youth Centre, offering all sorts of activities ranging from sport and leisure to issue-based workshops. Over 30 young people regularly attend an evening with three staff to oversee and support them.

The new officers are: *Coun John Fanshaw, chairman, Merry Metcalf, treasurer, and Stephen Nottingham, secretary. Committee members include: Sylvia Miles, Coun Keith Hatton, Kevin Davies, Coun Val Hartrey and Sharon Burke.* **CF**

Alfie top of the Welsh learners!

FORMER Wales rugby captain Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas has won the cariad@iaith:love4 language series, after an intense week of lessons and linguistic and physical challenges.

The winner was announced during the final programme, which was broadcast live on S4C on May 31.

Actress Di Botcher, who starred in Belonging, Little Britain and Twin Town, came second.

Alfie topped a public vote on Facebook and there was a tie between both Alfie and Di when the nominations by their fellow celebrity learners were announced.

Among the celebrities taking part in the series were tenor Wynne Evans, singer and model Lucie Jones, Game of Thrones star Robert Pugh and television presenters Lisa Rogers, Alex Winters and Lucy Owen.

For the past week, the eight took part in daily Welsh lessons, as well as competing in challenges including canoeing, portrait drawing and a game of water polo in coracles.

Last year's cariad@iaith:love4language winner, actress Melanie Walters, was at the final to present the prize to the winner and to recall her memories of taking part in the 2011 series.

Tutors Nia Parry and Ioan Talfryn had been teaching the celebrity students all week.

Romilly football youngsters star at Wembley!

On the hallowed turf!

ON Saturday May 19, Romilly Primary School football team, representing Cardiff City FC, played Martinshaw Primary School, representing Leicester City FC, at Wembley Stadium in the final of the NPower Kids' Cup.

The youngsters' prize in winning a final place consisted of a tour of Wembley stadium and the honour of the being flag bearers for the West Ham and Blackpool teams in the Championship Play-off final.

It meant the boys walked out as a team to a full capacity stadium.

In a completely one sided game, which ended in a 0-0 draw, Romilly lost the Cup on a penalty shootout.

The game started as it finished with Romilly dominating play, having ten shots on target, ensuring that the Leicester goalkeeper was their best player.

The dominance was so visible, that the Romilly goalkeeper only touched the ball once during the full game, which was a goal kick.

The quality of Romilly's 'pass and move' game encamped them in the opponents' half for the majority of the match and only the outstanding performance of the Leicester goalkeeper kept the score at 0-0.

Although they lost the game the boys came out as winners, not only on the field but off it too with their overall behaviour, conduct and attitude over the two days.

They were a credit to Barry, the school and their parents.

Romilly school PE teacher, Mrs Dawn Dobbs, was very proud and said: "I have loved every moment with the boys.

"They have been fantastic on and off the pitch. As a school we will celebrate their success and talk about it for many years to come and I am truly proud to be a part of their achievement."

One proud parent, Scott Hopkins, told The GEM: "The boys will look back on the day with real pride.

"They were all winners and deserve a lot of credit for the way they handled the whole occasion as ambassadors of Romilly School."

Another parent, Nigel Lee, commented: "We are all immensely proud of the hard work and dedication that the boys have put in to win a place in the Wembley final.

"Even though they lost on penalties, they can hold their heads high, as they were the better team during the game and to achieve what literally is a boyhood dream at such a young age is a reward in itself."

The parents said they wanted to thank Mrs Dobbs for the time, love and care that she has shown to all of the boys, and the amount of hard work that she has put into an unforgettable season for them.

Team GB 2012 hopeful gets helping hand

STAFF at Barry-based Harris Pye, have donated almost £1,400 to pay for the training kit of Barry's Team GB boxer Andrew Selby.

The flyweight champion is friends with Harris Pye trainee manager Nathan O'Brien.

When he heard that Selby had won a place on the Team GB 2012 team, his colleagues Daryn Letton and Andrew Speed, based in Bahrain, donated 1,000 Dirhams from their own wages to help him purchase training kit.

Group Managing Director Mark Prendergast matched their support with a further £1,000 donation from the company.

Andrew is ranked number two in AIBA's world rankings, and has one of the most impressive medal collections in the GB Boxing squad.

He won bronze medals at the 2008 and 2010 European Championships, and made history in June 2011 by becoming the first Welshman for 86 years to win the final and become European Champion.

By October 2011, Andrew had reached the World Championship final, but was narrowly defeated 13-12 by Russian Misha Aloyan. Many observers felt that Andrew should have been given the title.

Nathan O'Brien commented: "Although Andrew [Speed] and I live and work a long way away from Barry now, we're still in-touch with all our friends, like Andrew Selby, and we're immensely proud of him.

"He's a truly great boxer, and totally deserves to be in Team GB.

"We'll be following all his Olympic fights, and we're proud to have been able to help him with his training kit costs."

TOM GETS BACK INTO THE DRIVER'S SEAT

TOM HARVEY is back – and back with a bang.

Following six months away from the competitive racing scene last year, the gifted young south Wales speed demon has regained his winning form on the British stage, with a magnificent triumph at Glan Y Gors.

Having graduated from a title-winning Comer Cadet campaign in the national Super 1 Series in 2010 to the more powerful KF3 level in 2011, a variety of issues led to Tom temporarily hanging up his helmet last May in order to take some time out and prepare fully for a transition to the Junior Rotax class in 2012.

Limiting his track time to testing over the summer months, the highly-rated Bonvilston-based hotshot rejoined the cut-and-thrust of active competition in November with KR-Sport – and duly won straight out-of-the-blocks. Cue a return to Super 1 in 2012.

"Junior Rotax is very different to KF3," Tom explains. "It's more competitive, and the driver forms a more significant part of the package.

"In KF3, money is the defining element; in Junior Rotax, it's talent. There are so many drivers in Junior Rotax in Super 1 this year capable of winning races, so the standard is extremely high and the racing incredibly tough. You need to be absolutely on top of your game if you want to succeed."

After providing tremendous promise, only to find himself unceremoniously shunted off in the 2012 Super 1 curtain-raiser at Whilton Mill, the Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil travelled to Glan Y Gors for round two buoyed by strong prior form there.

Although he had never actually won around the undulating north Wales circuit, he was optimistic about his chances of breaking his duck, but fuel issues cost him almost half-a-second in qualifying – an eternity in such a tightly-contested field – and left him a distant 21st out of the 49 contenders.

From there, Tom gained ground to finish his two heat races respectively eighth and seventh, but it was the following day when he would truly come into his own. Each driver is restricted to just one set of tyres over the weekend, and having deliberately conducted a lot of testing on older rubber the previous summer, when they began to deteriorate, the 14-year-old was suddenly right in the pound seats, and as his rivals grappled around desperately for grip, he mastered the situation effortlessly.

Battling back from an early knock that had left him down in 21st place,

TOM HARVEY.

he scythed his way up through the pre-final order into ninth at the chequered flag.

Musing that in the light of his sparkling speed the top four might well have been possible but for his opening lap misfortune, the all-important grand final would corroborate his conviction in style.

"We knew we had strong pace, so we were aiming for the top," Tom admits. "I made up four positions on the first lap – three in one go into the same corner – and whilst after that, the drivers ahead were fairly evenly spread-out, I chased down and passed two of them to move up to fourth.

"By that point, Rob Holland in third was a little way in front and lapping quickly, but by retaining my consistency, I eventually reeled him in. Shortly after I had passed him, the two leaders collided. I was able to take advantage of that to assume the lead, and although I still had Holland right on my tail and putting me under pressure, I just focussed on keeping my composure.

"For several laps, I could feel him buzzing round my back bumper like a bee, but I made no mistakes and managed to eke out a gap by the end.

"The feeling when I crossed the line to win was amazing; the adrenaline rushes through you all throughout the race, and when the chequered flag comes down, suddenly it's a massive release.

"It was a long, hard race in very hot conditions around a demanding and very physical circuit – Glan Y Gors has 14 corners, meaning you are constantly on-and-off the power and using pretty much every muscle in your body."

Prevailing by 1.5 seconds when the flag fell, the result marked the Vale ace's first national triumph in more than a year-and-a-half – and a thoroughly well-deserved one at that.

Better yet, it has vaulted Tom spectacularly up the championship table from 43rd after Whilton Mill to fourth on dropped scores, a mere five points shy of the leader – and given his all-conquering form in Cadets, the fact that he is palpably eager for more is ominous for his adversaries.

"The win at Glan Y Gors is already in the history books," he asserts, making a point of thanking KR-Sport, Cowbridge Comprehensive and sponsors RB Supplies, All Print Supplies, Vehicle Integration Products and THR Graphics.

"We're looking forward to the next round now. This result has proved to me that I can beat every single Junior Rotax driver in Britain, and, after a difficult year in 2011, the confidence is back." **RA**

West Wales XI in hard fought encounters

THE Cowbridge West Wales captain visited the home pitch before the match against Dafen, who are second in the league, and having cleared the debris left by irresponsible party goers and dog owners, welcomed Dafen to the school field.

Even before the match it was being seen by the Dafen captain as a practice session and the reason subsequently became apparent.

Cowbridge scored 183 for 6 (Jon Brazier 44, Rian Thomas 21, Waquir Saadat 42, Richard Owen 35) and hoped that such a score would be hard to match.

With Dafen on 59 for 9 such expectations should have been fulfilled but it transpired that the Dafen numbers ten and eleven were senior players from last year and they put on 127 for the last wicket, losing seven cricket balls in the process. Dafen made the total for 9 wickets.

The away match against Morriston on June 2 was a very different matter. Exams are over and player availability much improved.

The captain won the toss and in view of the weather forecast elected to bat. Jon Brazier at number one provided a rock on which to anchor the innings, finally being bowled immediately after the drinks interval when on 18, whilst the other end was occupied by enthusiastic strikers of the ball.

Michael Hordley scored 34. Two new club members, Sean Boga Lake (27) and Jac Davies (13) also scored briskly. George Brown, back in the side after examinations, made 28 and Tom Kamal 20 not out.

At 173 for five from 45 overs the team were optimistic but had the depressing experience of the Dafen match in mind.

The very youthful appearance of the Morriston side was at first encouraging but their openers' excellent technique was not. Michael Hordley bowled tightly, limiting the score to 3.5 an over, and Sean Boga Lake, after one agonising over due to first night nerves, recovered himself in a magnificent way and did just as well.

His arrival will be a great boost to the side. George Brown, who has worked hard on his action, also made an invaluable input, and was supported energetically by Jack Griffiths.

Fielding was generally tight but Hatim Shami's enthusiasm and commitment was a fine example and, in a neat father and son effort, Richard Owen made a fine stumping from Cai Owen's bowling.

Wickets were hard to come by, however, and drizzling rain started making life difficult for the spinners and the new matting of the artificial pitch very slippery.

The score steadily mounted until with two overs to go (and with four wickets in hand) Morriston needed only 13 runs.

After a mid-field consultation the captain decided that Jon Brazier's individual technique might provide the essential bafflement needed in the next over, and so it proved.

Morriston were then left to make eight from the last over. With two balls to go, they were on 173 themselves, but Sean kept his head and contained the batsman to produce a draw.

It was an exciting and hard fought game in the best atmosphere. The side can be proud of them selves and the score well reflected the match. **DW**

The Cowbridge seconds in an absorbing game

WITH flags flying, and bunting all around Cowbridge for the Jubilee celebrations, Cowbridge Second XI welcomed Bronwydd to the Athletic ground.

The weather was unfortunately overcast and there was a threat of rain later in the day; however, the weather did not detract from what was a very enjoyable and absorbing game of cricket.

Cowbridge lost the toss and were invited to bat first. The Cowbridge openers, Chris Ross and Jonty Webb, started brightly and put together a partnership of over 50 for the first wicket. Chris was finally out for a well-made 27 to a sharp catch in the gully to leave Cowbridge at 55 for 1 after 17 overs. Despite this loss the score continued to rise as further partnerships were built with Jonty Webb.

There were useful contributions from Ian Evans (18) and Umar Rafique (12), while Jonty Webb continued to trundle on at the other end. The result off all this was that Cowbridge were able to post 191 for 5 off their 50 overs, with Jonty Webb 80 not out.

The Bronwydd innings got off to a slow start with some tight bowling from John Gilbert and Ali Qasim.

John struck first to remove the Bronwydd captain, and with a further quick wicket Bronwydd were 23 for 2 off 10 overs.

At this point, Cowbridge would have hoped to continue to take wickets, but the Bronwydd batsmen dug in and started to push the score along.

Cowbridge's bowling began to get a little wayward and the score began to rise. Bronwydd reached 130 for 5 off 40 overs and the captain was starting to get concerned, however, the breakthrough came from Umar Rafique, who had the Bronwydd number five caught behind for a well-made 38.

This signalled a flurry of wickets as both Mathew Keating and Ian Evans took a wicket apiece, along with Ali Qasim, who bowled very well throughout the day.

This meant that, with the rain coming down, Bronwydd were tottering on 163 for 9 with five overs to go.

Despite sustained pressure from the bowlers the final wicket eluded Cowbridge, with the game ending in a winning draw for the team.

It was disappointing to have not taken the final wicket, but this was on the whole a good performance.

To have posted 190 was excellent and the fielding, especially from the likes of James Middleton and Rian Thomas, was of a high standard. However, at times Cowbridge let themselves down with some indifferent bowling.

Cowbridge still sit top of the table with hopes of a victory next week against Skewen.

JW

Skating club enters its first competition at Newbury with success

PICTURED: Hannah John, Lara Goodwin, Medi Weston, Phoebe Escott, Kaitlin Daly, Katie Vaughan, Bethan Daly, and Michael Vaughan.

THE Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club entered its first competition at Newbury recently.

Eight skaters, two were only eight years old, competed in six of the 24 competitions on the day.

The skaters did extremely well in gaining two silver medals and a fourth, fifth and sixth placings.

Lara Goodwin and Phoebe Escott won silver medals, with Kaitlin Daly taking fourth.

In a team event, Lara, Kaitlin and Phoebe took fifth place. Medi Weston and Hannah John each placed sixth in their events, and Bethan Daly, Katie Vaughan and Michael Vaughan also competed and did well.

A club spokeswoman said: "All the skaters did extremely well and comments were made about their neat footwork and lovely club costumes in black and turquoise.

"We now look forward to our own first club competition on July 7 at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre. Trophies have been kindly donated by both local businesses and private individuals."

WRU 'little stars' courses set for the Vale to 'teach with fun'

CHILDREN as young as three can now enjoy a fun introduction to rugby by signing up for the Welsh Rugby Union's 'Little Stars' courses which are being held in Barry, Cowbridge and Penarth.

Giving youngsters a great start in sport, the new courses focus on the fundamental skills of rugby such as catching, throwing, agility, balance and co-ordination, and everything is taught in a really fun way.

The sessions are held for two different age groups, and for the youngest children (three-four), the sessions are themed with plenty of varied games being played.

For the older kids (five-seven), naturally, a bit more rugby is introduced so that the youngsters can develop their skills and gain more of an understanding of the game.

WRU coach Sophie Wilkinson, who runs the sessions in the Vale, said: "Little Stars is a new exciting way to introduce rugby.

"There is parent involvement in the younger class too, so be prepared!

"Youngsters are able to join mini rugby clubs once they are six years old, so the older sessions are therefore a bit more advanced, with a bit of tag rugby being played and more of a focus on fundamental rugby skills."

The courses can be found at: St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry: Mondays, 4pm-5pm for ages three-four, and 5pm-6pm for ages five-seven.

Penarth Leisure Centre: Tuesdays, 4pm-5pm (three-four), and 5pm-6pm (five-seven).

Cowbridge Leisure Centre: Fridays, 4pm-5pm (three-four), and 5pm-6pm (five-seven).

The courses run in six-week blocks during each school term, and cost £30. The next block of courses start from Monday June 11, and all places have to be booked in advance by going online at: http://camps.wru.co.uk.

If you have any queries please call Sophie Wilkinson on 07725 200634.

Children as young as three can learn the basic skills of rugby with 'Little Stars'.

Wins for two local trainers

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams and Aberthin's Tim Vaughan both saddled winners at different meetings last Wednesday.

Evan was successful with *Battlecat* at Newton Abbot, and Tim won with *Whatshallwedo* and *Solaris Exhibition* at Sedgefield.

Battlecat was ridden by Adam Wedge and both Tim's winners were partnered by Richard Johnson.

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308 bridges gap between estate and people carrier

YOU don't want a people carrier and prefer an estate, yet need more seats and practicality?

Then the new Peugeot 308SW might just be of interest. With its third row of seats it can transport seven people in comfort. When there aren't that many passengers, the capacious boot will fit most loads.

A wise use of space makes for great versatility in a car that could also be considered a bit of a sports utility vehicle, without that extra ride height of course.

Inside, you get treated to a panoramic glass roof that pretty much stretches the length of the vehicle. This makes the cabin feel light, airy and spacious.

If shade from the sun is required then an electric blind cures the problem. Rear passengers get privacy glass and door mounted blinds as well as neat folding trays on the back of the seats.

Comfort and practicality are provided by the leather seats and the driver benefits from theirs being electrically adjustable.

The centre armrest is also adjustable, which is appreciated on long journeys as is the foot rest for the driver's left foot.

ABOVE: THE PEUGEOT 308SW.

You can't fault the driving position and the responsive 1.6-litre diesel engine is frugal, helped by the smooth and quiet automatic stop start.

I like the traditional handbrake, which I always feel gives the driver much more control than a single switch that so many manufacturers seem to prefer to use these days.

Its six-speed box is decisive if a little clunky and noisy when selecting a gear, but then this adds to the car's character.

Cruise control only operates in fourth gear and above, which means you can't use this function at lower speeds.

Externally the new 308 has received an injection of modernity at its front, giving greater impact (compared to the original model). The test car was finished in white and this added to the overall appeal.

Wing mirrors reminiscent of droopy dog's ears,automatically fold when the car is locked.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "*The 308SW may look like an ordinary family estate, but it has a trick up its sleeve that makes it one of a kind – an extra row of seats in the back.*

"While there are plenty of people carriers and 4x4s able to transport seven passengers there are few manufacturers that offer so many seats in a vehicle of this size, so the 308SW has obvious attractions.

"As a result, it's a great family car. It's not exciting to drive but with a well-finished cabin and smooth ride, it's a comfortable and safe choice."

The 308 SW has quickly become a member of the family, like your favourite pet, and it is certainly a good alternative to a people mover.

Peugeot 308SW – New price range: £16,115-£22,230.

Allure model: 1.6-litre; 0-60mph: 11.5secs; Top speed: 118mph; Power: 112bhp; Economy: 61mpg; Road tax: £0.

Watch the video at ***www.testdrives.biz.***

SCORPIONS IN TEAM OF THE MONTH

TWO South Wales Scorpions stars, Kevin James and Nathan Mossop, have been named in the Co-operative Championship 1 team of the month for May.

Voted for by the Championship 1 club head coaches, the team was announced in Rugby League World magazine that was released last Friday.

James was selected for the mythical line-up after scoring a try a game in his first three games of professional Rugby League.

The former Neath RFC favourite has been on top form since his recent conversion to the 13-man game and his strength at centre, alongside fellow convert Tom Morgan, has been an inspiration to the Scorpions.

Mossop has been as solid as ever at hooker, scoring a hat-trick of tries in Scorpions' 32-30 win over Rochdale last month.

Steve Parry, another of the Scorpions' standouts throughout May, was unlucky not to make the line-up, coming in second in the scrum-half rankings to Barrow's Liam Campbell, who ended up with the player of the month award for May.

Scorpions' coach Dave Clark said:

"I'm delighted that two of our players have been chosen in the Team of the Month.

Rhoose FC under-11s are seeking players

RHOOSE FC under-11s are currently on the look-out for new players to join its "friendly team" for the forthcoming season.

Any player under 11 years of age before September 1, 2012, and is currently a year-5 pupil, is welcome to attend a training session on Friday evenings, 6pm-7pm, at Rhoose Recreation Ground (Ceri Road).

For more information contact Paul on 01446 719106.

Football camps

YOUNG footballers in the Vale can get ready for Euro 2012 by improving their skills on two special football coaching camps that are being held during half term.

Budding Joe Harts can pick up tips between the sticks on a two-day 'No 1 Goalkeeper Camp' on June 4-5 at Parc Bryn-y-Don in Dinas Powys.

The coaching will take place between 9am and 1pm each day and will cover all aspects of goalkeeping. The camp costs £25 for two days, or £15 for an individual day.

Alternatively, if you wouldlike to finish like Van Persie or Ronaldo, then a three day 'No 9 Goalscorer Camp' will teach you about forward play and help you hit the back of the net in style.

Qualified coaches will be running the camp between June 6-8, also at Parc Bryn-y-Don in Dinas Powys.

Each day runs from 9am to 1pm, and the camp costs £30 for three days, or £12.50 for each individual day.

To book your child's place on any of the sessions, or to find out more, please call Andy Davies on 07413 360504.

For further ideas of how you can spend an active half term, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or follow @valesportsnews on Twitter.

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GEM sport

AFTER ALL THE EMOTION, THE REAL TEST LOOMS FOR WALES

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

TEN minutes into an emotion-charged farewell to two retiring Welsh greats at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday, a bright new star burst across the rugby horizon in the slight shape of 19-year-old Harry Robinson, who announced his arrival with a blistering try, racing half the length of the field with not a distinguished Barbarian hand laid on him.

Already hailed as the natural successor to wing wizard Shane Williams (92 caps), who along with the other famous Williams – Martyn (celebrating his 100th cap), was making a final international bow – the fleet-footed, elusive youngster did enough on his debut to justify the fulsome post-match plaudits that came his way.

Caretaker head coach Robert Howley described him as "*Wales' new secret weapon*", adding: "*Harry is almost Shane-esque in the excitement he creates when he has the ball in hand*".

The Barbarians' coach, legendary All Black John Kirwan, who definitely knows a thing or two about wing play, said: "*All I could think of was, here we go again! Wales see one wing retire and have another already waiting, to their credit.*"

For the animated crowd of 57,022, it was clearly an historic occasion to savour and celebrate – from the moment the teams ran onto the field, led by Shane Williams, who was making his swan-song in the famous black and white hoops of the Baa-Baas invitational side.

Everyone cheered him to the echo; likewise peerless openside Martyn Williams, who finally joined the exclusive 100-club when he came on as a substitute for Wales, underlining the faintly surreal mood of a match in which nothing was ostensibly at stake.

Moreover, most of the first choice Wales team were absent – already in Australia preparing for the first of three much sterner Tests against the Wallabies at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.

Nevertheless, it soon became clear that this was not to be the usual sevens-like rugby throw-about in Cardiff and that both teams were approaching it with serious intent.

For the star-studded, multi-racial Baabaas, of course, it was simply a matter of professional pride after being humbled by England and scraping a one-point win over the Irish.

For all but five of the 22 Welsh players, it transpired, the game was a realistic chance to stake their claim for a place in the later Tests Down Under (five players, including in-form Ospreys outside half Dan Biggar, had already been told that they would not be joining the squad in Australia).

For Howley and the rest of the Welsh management, on this occasion the result – rather than performance – was key: "*We lost our way in the middle of the game – but we showed character and guts – and winning helps the momentum for Australia,*" he said candidly.

His relief was understandable, for after rushing into a 13-0 lead through Robinson's corner try, converted by James Hook, who also kicked two penalties, the Welsh defence came under sustained and severe pressure.

It saw All Black pivot Stephen Donald convert his own try and the Barbarians' pack twice being denied on the line, resulting in Welsh prop Rhys Gill being shown the yellow card by referee Alain Rolland (he of RWC semi-final infamy!)

Two minutes before the interval, and still encsconced on the Welsh line, the Baa-Baas clawed their way to a 14-13 lead when Blues scrumhalf Richie Rees darted through the melee for their second try, converted by Donald.

Shortly after the changeover, Hook missed a penalty, but almost immediately made amends to regain a two-point lead, which was promptly wiped out by Donald's second touchdown on the hour, which he easily converted, to make it 21-16 in Baa-Baas' favour.

Hook then showed typical vision and flair to bamboozle the defence and convert the try that put Wales once more in the lead at 23-21.

Almost on full-time, inimitable Shane Williams tried to spark a last-ditch attack, but the move broke down as the man wearing his old No11 shirt, Aled Brew, intercepted a stray pass in midfield and jubilantly romped over for a try, again converted by Hook, and a final score of Wales 30, Barbarians 21.

So now all eyes turn to the first Test Down Under this weekend, as the Welsh tourists bid to claim a rare Tri-Nations scalp - or three! – in their own backyard (Scotland pointed the way with their shock 9-6 win on Tuesday).

The task is formidable and history may be against them, but the growing maturity and confidence of this fast-improving young side this time gives real cause for optimism.

One thing for sure is that the whole of Wales will be cheering them on.

Weakened First XI give more than useful performance on the road

Last weekend, Cowbridge First XI travelled west to make the first visit of any Cowbridge league team to recently promoted Bronwydd Cricket Club, near Carmarthen.

The match facts are that the home side batted first and scored 200-7, and Cowbridge scored 158-6 in reply.

This was a respectable performance considering the fact that five players from last week's team were unavailable. The batsmen particularly were sorely missed.

With those facts in mind, a younger side than usual headed west, more in hope than expectation.

After a long and difficult journey through heavy holiday traffic on a bank holiday weekend, Mike Lloyd took over the skipper's duties, won the toss and decided to field. This made sense as the team's strength lay in its bowling, with Warner, Taylor, Ali and Collier present.

The opening attack of Tom Warner and Ryan Taylor enjoyed some early success. They had the home side struggling on 10 runs for the loss of two wickets after six overs.

Harri Collier, making his first appearance this season for the First XI, joined the action and certainly did not look out of place. He had figures of 2-4 in four overs as he helped the pace attack reduce the home side to 71 for 5 wickets after 26 overs.

However, the Bronwydd batsmen mounted a rearguard action and a stand of 117 runs signalled a successful rally. The combination of Stephan Jones (80) and Nick Hogben (52) could not be broken until the 48th.over when Tom Warner captured both wickets.

The innings closed on 200 for 7 wickets, and Harri's impressive bowling brought him final figures of 2 –31 off 12 overs.

Sam Wood and Mike Lloyd opened the batting and they were placed under constant pressure from some accurate and hostile bowling. Making progress proved difficult, neither batsman was able to break free and this set the tempo for the whole innings.

Sam (30), Mike (20) and Ryan Taylor (28) all made starts, but could not continue with a big score to threaten the home side's total. No outstanding partnership was formed.

On Saturday, the outstanding innings came from Chris Willey, with an unbeaten 36. He held the innings together, encouraging the youngsters in the side to stay with him and follow his example, but unfortunately no one could.

Coming to the crease in the 15th over when the score was 57-2, he batted carefully and sensibly for the remaining overs, refusing to give away his wicket. If he had, the game would have been lost.

Tom Warner (eight) kept him company for the last eight overs as they attempted to gain a further batting point under extreme pressure.

So a win for either side slipped away as the rain began to fall.

The club captain would be disappointed that his side came away without a win, but very encouraged by this gritty performance from the team who refused to buckle under great pressure from the home side.

Next Saturday the First XI is at home to Skewen Cricket Club. Your support is most welcome; the Second XI travels.

DL

ABOVE: Bonvilston's Tom Harvey (on the left) will be hoping to fly the flag in victory as gets back in the driving seat.
SEE PAGE 30 FOR THE FULL STORY

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